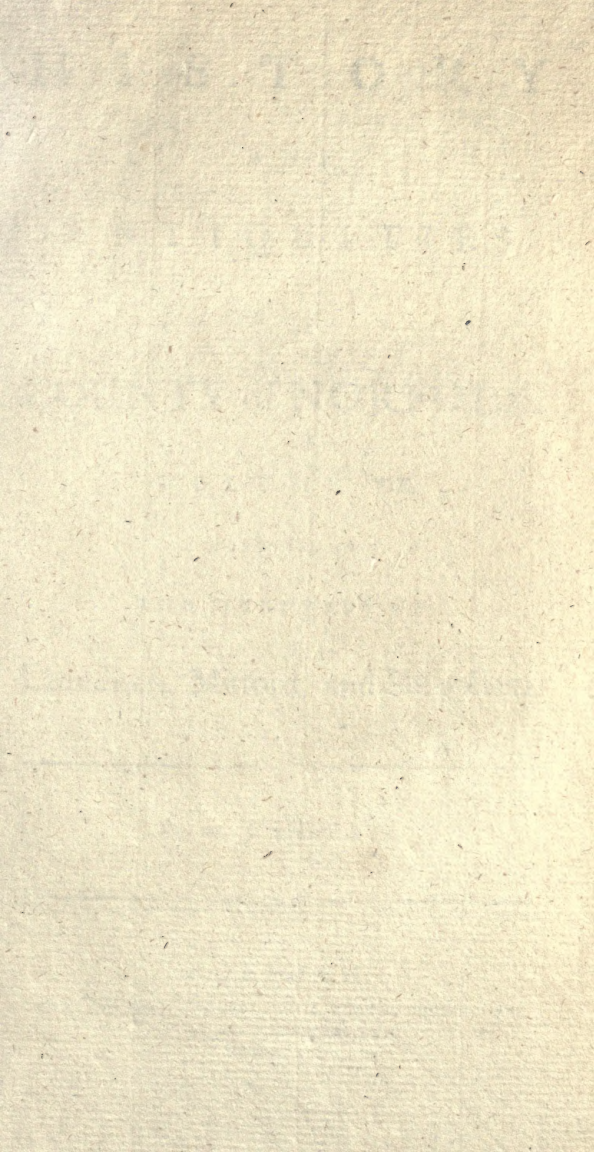


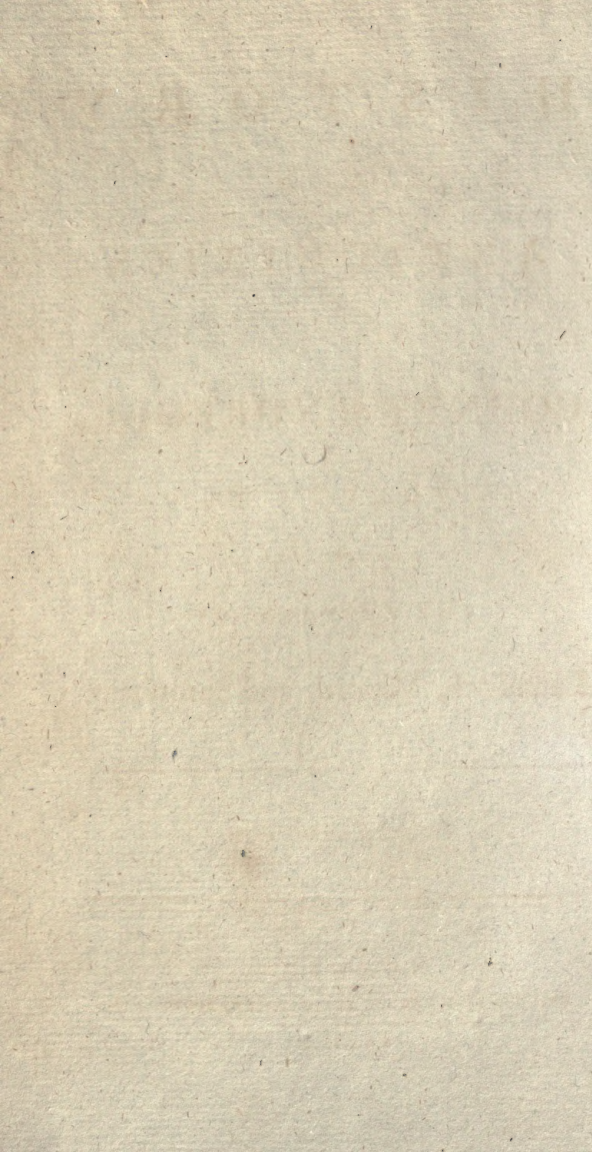


THE LIBRARY
OF
THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES









H I S T O R Y
A N D
A N T I Q U I T I E S
O F T H E
C O U N T Y o f N O R F O L K.

V O L U M E V I I I.

C O N T A I N I N G
T H E H U N D R E D S O F
L a u n d i t c h , M i t f o r d , a n d S h r o p h a m .

Pro me: si merear, in me.

N O R W I C H :
P R I N T E D B Y J . C R O U S E , F O R M . B O O T H , B O O K S E L L E R .

M.DCC.LXXXI.

HISTORICAL

AND

ANTIQUITIES

OF THE

COUNTY OF NORFOLK

VOLUME VII

CONTAINING

THE HISTORY OF

Landitch, Minford, and Spingham

By J. H. H. H. H.

NORWICH

PRINTED BY J. H. H. H. H.

1844

DA
670
N6H6
V.8



T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
N O R F O L K.

Hundred of LAUNDITCH,

IS bounded on the north by Gallow, on the east by Eynsford, on the south by Mitford and South Greenhoe, and on the west by Freebridge-Lynn, being about eleven miles from north to south, and twelve from east to west, and contains thirty-six towns, all of which (except Colkirk and Hoe) compose, and are in the deanry of Brisley, and archdeaconry of Norwich. It takes its name from a long ditch, with a bank that divides (as it is said) the two parishes of Longham and Beeston, and runs north
A and

and south, where at the crossing of it, by the Norwich road, the hundred court was anciently kept, and was given by the Conqueror to Alan, son of Flaald, ancestor to the barons of Clun, in Shropshire, (and earls of Arundel after) and granted by the said Alan to Siward, with the hundred of South Greenhoe, and (as some records say) confirmed by William Fitz Alan, son of Alan, to Durand, grandson of Siward, on his paying 6l. per ann. rent for the two hundreds, and 8s. per ann. for lands in Wellingham, Sutton, and Bittering.

Alan, son of Flaald, had also with this (by grant of the Conqueror) the great lordship of Mileham, of which Stigand, archbishop of Canterbury, was lord before the Conquest, and probably of this hundred also.

Robert de Vere, constable to Henry II. and A. his wife, daughter of Hugh de Montefort, had some interest in lands near to this ditch, and granted to the monks of Castle Acre, the wood, grove, and land of Launditch, viz. the third part of the grove, of which William de Pellita-Villa, or Pelleville, and Richard de Francaville, were parceners.

In the 3d of Henry III. the king directed his writ to the sheriff of Norfolk, to deliver this hundred to Mary, widow of William Fitz-Alan, belonging to Mileham manor, which was her dower, and in the 6th of that king it is said to be worth six marks per annum.

John Fitz-Alan, baron of Clun, held this hundred, with that of South Greenhoe, in fee-farm, paying 18s. 6d. per annum; and John le Strange was found to hold them of him at 6l. per annum, and with the said

paid 18s. 6d. in the 34th of the said king. This John le Strange was grandson of Durand abovementioned.

In the 3d of Edward I. the justices itinerant found that the stewards of the honor of Richmond had newly erected a sheriff's turn, and held two turns in this hundred of the tenants of that honor. After this Henry III. gave it to Peter de Savoy.

Edward I. in his 14th year, sued the lord of this hundred, Richard Fitz-Alan, then earl of Arundel, as his right, and pleaded that Richard king of England (whose kinsman he was) held peaceably the same; but in the following year the jury for the hundred present, that John le Strange held it with that of South Greenhoe, paying yearly to the aforesaid earl 6l. per ann. and to the king a fee-farm rent of 48s. and in the 33d of the said king the jury present, that John le Strange, of Litcham, held the same till his death, May 21, 1305.

In the 4th year of Edward II. Ralph le Strange, of Litcham, conveyed by fine to John Fitz-Gilbert this hundred, and that of South Greenhoe; and in the 4th of Edward III. Robert Bainard died seised of this hundred.

In the 21st of Richard II. on the attainder of Richard earl of Arundel, these two hundreds were granted by that king to his uncle, John duke of Lancaster; and in the following year, August 8, to Edmund duke of York.

After this we find them possessed by Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, who married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Richard, and sister and coheiress of Thomas earl of Arundel; and in the 1st of Edward IV.

John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, died seized of the same, as one of the heirs of the Fitz-Alans.

On the death of this duke, and his daughter and heiress, Ann, they came to the Howard family, dukes of Norfolk, as their heirs, sir Robert Howard having married Margaret, daughter and coheiress of Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, and Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk, had livery of this hundred in the 1st and 2d of Philip and Mary; and in the reign of queen Elizabeth, on the attainder of Thomas duke of Norfolk, the queen granted it, *anno* 25, to William Dix, esq. of Wickmere, in the hundred of South Erpingham, for a certain term of years, then valued at 46l. per ann. and king James, in his first year, June 17, gave it to Thomas lord Howard, earl of Surrey, grandson to Thomas late duke of Norfolk, and Henry Howard, afterwards earl of Northampton. It afterwards came to the Barnwells, of Milham, and Charles Barnwell, esq. of Mileham, is the present lord.

The tenths of this hundred amounted to 118l. 8s. 9d.—Deduct for lands belonging to abbies and other religious houses 13l. 16s. 4d. and paid by them.

The parish towns in this hundred, and the number of votes polled by resident freeholders at the contested election for knights of the shire, March 23, 1768, are as follow:

	W.	deG.	A.	C.
Beefton	5	4	2	1
Beetly	0	0	6	6
Bilney, East	4	1	6	1
Bittering	3	3	8	6
Brisley	4	5	2	1
Colkirk	4	5	2	1
			Dillington	

LAUNDITCH.

5

Dillington	-	-	0	0	1	1
Dunham, Great	}	-	9	7	0	2
-----, Little						
Elmham, North	-	-	1	0	19	18
Fransham, Great	}	-	8	8	3	1
-----, Little						
Gately	-	-	0	0	2	1
Godwick	-	-	0	0	2	2
Gressenhall	-	-	2	1	14	11
Hoe	-	-	2	2	4	4
Horningtoft	-	-	2	2	3	3
Kempstone	-	-	3	1	0	2
Lexham, East	}	-	3	0	1	4
-----, West						
Litcham	-	-	14	10	0	3
Longham	-	-	0	0	6	6
Mileham	-	-	4	2	5	5
Oxwick, with Pattlesly	-	-	1	1	1	1
Rougham	-	-	0	1	3	2
Scarning	-	-	6	5	2	1
Stanfield	-	-	2	1	4	1
Swanton-Morley	-	-	7	6	5	4
Tittleshall	-	-	0	0	4	4
Weafenham, All Saints	}	-	2	5	2	5
-----, St. Peter						
Wellingham	-	-	1	1	1	1
Wendling	-	-	0	4	5	0
Whissonfet	-	-	2	3	5	4
Worthing	-	-	2	2	0	0
Total			91	80	118	102

This hundred is situated pretty much towards the centre of the county, and comprehends an extensive tract of rich and highly-improved country, well wooded and watered, the rivers Wensum and Nar,

and some smaller streams, having their rise and course in it. The features of the country, in some places, are bold and beautiful, and the roads in general tolerably good.

The Seats and principal Houses are,

<i>Bilney, East,</i>	Rev. Christopher Munnings
<i>Dillington,</i>	Mr. John Daniel
<i>Elmham,</i>	Richard Milles, esq.
<i>Fransham, Great,</i>	Mr. Edward Case
<i>Fransham, Little,</i>	Hammond Alpe, esq.
<i>Gately,</i>	Robert Sharrock, esq.
<i>Godwick,</i>	Thomas Wm. Coke, esq. M. P.
<i>Gressenhall,</i>	Lady L'Strange
<i>Hoe,</i>	Late Thomas Halcott, esq.
<i>Kempstone,</i>	William Heard, esq.
<i>Lexham, East,</i>	Sir John Wodehouse, bart.
<i>Mileham,</i>	Edward Davy, esq.
<i>Ditto,</i>	Charles Barnwell, esq.
<i>Rougham,</i>	Fountaine North, esq.
<i>Tittleshall,</i>	William Collison, esq.
<i>Weasenhams,</i>	Richard Jackson, esq. M. P.

" The ditch from which this hundred is said to take its name, (says Mr. Parkin) begins at, or near Wendling carr, in which the Gressenhall river rises, and runs directly towards the low common, on which the river Nar takes its rise near Mileham; if the fact be true, it may afford matter of curious inquiry, particularly when that ditch was made, and for what purpose. Wendling carr and Mileham common were both in very early ages probably covered with water, as well as the low grounds adjoining to the two rivulets that rise respectively from them. Such we know, from what we see at this day, is usually the state of countries little cultivated, and if it was so here,

here, and the remains of the ditch exists in the direction I am told it does, it was probably made to defend the country to the north and north-east of the Nar and Wensum, of which last the Gressenhall brook is a branch."

This dyke, or barrier, is yet visible in many places, and was no doubt, a division, or boundary of lands, lying on each side: but some who are fond of *extraordinaries*, fondly magnify this simple land-mark into a warlike trench. Mr. Parkin, however, whose *imagination* on similar occasions we have found equally sanguine, does not *affirm*, but *supposes* it so—and so.

The hundred certainly takes its name from this dyke, or ditch; *laun* may be a corruption of long, or lang. The town of Longham is situated close to the ditch,

Launditch pays 26l. 19s. to the general rate, at a six hundred pound levy.

A few years ago an act of parliament was obtained for erecting a house of industry in this and the hundred of Mitford, which is now established and conducted in a manner equally beneficial to the poor, and to those they subsist by. It was our intention to have inserted a fuller account of the business of this institution, but we do not on every occasion find the disposition of persons, who might readily furnish us with authentic documents, keep pace with our own desire of laying before our readers every useful information in our power:—Such, such is the inattention of individuals towards public gratification!

BEESTON, called **BEESTON** by **MILEHAM**, or **BEESTON** by **LITCHAM**, to distinguish it from other towns of the name in this county. This village stands on an eminence between **Litcham** and **Fransham**, and the church, with a handsome spire, is a fine land object.

EARL WARREN'S FEE. In the 22d of Edward I. Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, is said to have given the manor of Beeston in frank-marriage with Joan, his daughter, to William, son of John earl Warren and Surry; but how it came to belong to the earl of Oxford does not appear: probably this was a part of the manor of Sporle, which at the survey was in the king's hands, and farmed of him by Godric, and so this part is included therein, not being mentioned in Doomsday-book.

In the Warren family it continued till the death of John earl Warren in 1347, when it descended to the Fitz-Alans, earls of Arundels, together with Castle Acre, as his heirs, and so was united to the manor that they held in this town.

BEESTON MANOR, ARUNDEL FEE, was a part of Mileham great lordship, and is included under the account of that town, and granted together with it, by the Conqueror, to Alan, son of Flaald, ancestor to the earls of Arundel.

In the 30th of Edward I. Richard earl of Arundel held this town, and that of Mileham, by one knight's fee, valued at 57l. 5s. 9d. per ann. but we refer the reader to the history of that town for particulars.

From the Fitz-Alans, earls of Arundel, it was conveyed to sir Thomas Gresham, and by his executors

to the Barnwells, Charles Barnwell, esq. of Mileham, being lord of this town.

CANKEWELL'S MANOR takes its name from the Cankewells, lords of Newton by Castle Acre. Baldwin de Cankewell was valet to John de Burgh, son and heir of Hubert, earl of Kent, who gave him the manor of Newton; the said Baldwin held this in the time of Henry III. and Michael, his son, in the 15th of Edward I. as a part of Mileham manor, under the earls of Arundel.

In the 14th of Edward II. John de Beeston conveyed it John de Leche, and Alice, his wife, daughter of the aforesaid Michael; and was afterwards held of them by the service of the 40th part of an ob of gold, that is, the 40th part of three carrats of gold, in the 9th of Edward III.

The temporalities of the priory of Castle Acre were valued in 1428 at 7s. 6d. Westacre at 4s. 6d. Wendling at 10s. The tenths of this town, with those of Bittering, were 9l.—Deducted 1l. 10s.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Mary, anciently valued at thirty-three marks; the present value is 12l. 19s. 10d.

The patronage was in the family of Warren earl of Arundel and Surry, and their descendents, till 1563, when sir Thomas Gresham, knight, presented, from whom it came to the Barnwells, of Mileham.

In 1744 the Rev. Charles Barnwell was presented to this rectory by Charles Barnwell, gent. *p. j.* and in 1770, July 19, he resigned it to his son, the Rev. William Barnwell.

John

John Clement, priest, gave to John Skinner Maggot's close, in Beeston, to him and his heirs, by will, dated November 2, 1504, paying yearly to the church reeves of Beeston, to the helping of the common charges of the said town, 2s. and to discharge the same against the lord and the king.

William Hook, of Beeston, gave by will two acres of land at the end of the green, abutting west on Bronger's-green, to keep his anniversary yearly, 1506.

Robert Kett, *alias* Knight, gave certain houses to the poor of this town in 1601, 20l. to the repair of the pinnacle and of the steeple, and 40s. wherewith the high window above the rood-loft was glazed.

The church was founded in memory of the Nativity of the blessed Virgin, and on the 8th of September a feast used to be kept by the inhabitants, and on the window was—*Orate specialiter p. salubri statu fratrum et soror. gilde gloriose Virginis Marie, cujus honori hæc dedicatur ecclia, et omnium viventium benefactor. eorund. et p. a'iab; omnium fratrum et soror. defunctor. ejusd. gilde, ac etiam p. a'iab; defunctor. benefactor. eorund. qui proprijs expensis et pecunijs eidem gildæ habende largitis, has octo fenestras vitro fieri devote curaverunt anno 1410.*

The church is a regular pile, with a nave and two aisles, covered with lead, (the chancel tiled) with a tower, and thereon a wood cupola, or spire, and five bells. There were two chapels, one on the north side, called our Lady's, and one on the south, called St. John's.

On a grave-stone, with a brass plate, in the chancel,
*—Johannes Forbye, artium magister, atq; hujus ecclesiæ
 rector, hæc tabulus, hæc sacraria atq; subsellia refecit,
 et sacris posuit, non prophanis aut secularibus usibus.
 Mors mihi vita.*

Over the door, in the north aisle, are these old
 rhymes, in black letter :

*This share doth show this manor fine,
 A share it is, not money mine.
 This many hundred years, you understand,
 A share to be a fine, for taking up of land.*

Under this is the figure of a plow-share, and the
 words about it,——*Beeston Fine!——Lord Barnwell!
 ——See thou keep it!*

The custom of the manor is for all copyholders to
 pay on every death, or alienation, a plow-share,
 or 2s.

On the screen also is a *B.* a plow-share, and a ton,
 an old rebus for Beeston.

Every Christmas-day 20s. is distributed to the poor
 in bread, and by the same donor also 20s. for a ser-
 mon on Good Friday.

BEETLEY, BEETLY, or BETELY, wrote in Doomf-
 day-book Betellea, was a beruite, or little manor,
 going along with, and depending on the bishop of
 the East Angles' capital manor of Elmham and held
 by William Beaufoe, bishop of Thetford in 1085.
 when it was eight furlongs long, and four broad, and
 was valued in Elmham.

Walter bishop of Norwich was lord in the 35th of Henry III. and had a charter for free-warren.

On the exchange of manors and lands between Henry VIII. and the bishop of Norwich, it was granted with Elnham to Thomas Cromwell, who was afterwards earl of Essex, and Edward lord Cromwell, his descendent, sold it in the 40th of Elizabeth, with the advowson, to John Athow; and Christopher Crowe, esq. of East Bilney, purchased it of the Athows.

The lands here and in Elmham, with two acres in Tibbenham, belonging to the monastery of St. Faith's, of Horsham, and three acres also in Heveringland, &c. were granted by queen Elizabeth, August 2. *anno* 27, to Theophilus Adams, and Thomas Butler, of London, gents.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and is a rectory, anciently valued at eighteen marks; it was not visited by the archdeacon, and paid no procurations, being the bishop's lordship; the present value is 9l. 7s. 9d. halfpenny, and is discharged of first-fruits and tenths. The town pays 3l. 12s. tenths. Here is a nave, with two ailes, covered with lead, a chancel, tiled, and a square tower, with three bells.

Near the communion-table a grave-stone to—*Martha, wife of Richard Warner, cler. obiit July, 1719, ætat. 75.*

Richard Warner, A. M. hujus eccles. rector, institut. 1669, obi. 11 Sep. A. D. 1722, ætat. 78.

One—*In memory of Robert Pooley, clerk, who died October 22, 1663.*—Also, of—*Hannah, daughter of Francis*

Francis Hastings, gent. who died February 13, 1703, aged 22.

Jacobus Warner, gen. filius natu maximus Ric. Warner, nuper de Betely, gen. e vita excessit 18 Dec. 1713, ætat. 72.

Hic jacet corpus Ric. Warner, gen. obt. 10 Feb. 1672, ætat. 56.

Martha Warner, gen. filia 2da. Ham. Ferrour, nuper de Wendling, gen. obt. 29 Oct. 1696, ætat. 77, posuit Ric. Warner, rect.

Also,—Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Lombe, esq. and wife of Mr. Richard Warner, obiit quinto Martij, A. D. 1722, ætat. 35.

In 1722 Charles Morley, M. D. presented Henry Rice to this rectory; and in 1771 the Rev. Christopher Munnings had it on his own presentation, being now both patron and rector.

BILNEY, EAST. This town does not occur in the book of Doomsday, being accounted for under the earl Warren's lordship of Gressenhall, and that of the bishop of Norwich, of Elmham, which took in all this town.

The **EARL WARREN'S FEE** was possessed by Wimer, his *dapifer*; from his descendants it came to the Stuteviles, &c. William de Stuteville was lord here, and of Gressenhall, in the 8th of Henry III. and Richard Foliot in the 9th of Edward II. and in this fee was the patronage of a moiety of this church, till William de Stuteville, in the 8th of Henry III. granted it to Pandulf, bishop of Norwich, on an exchange for
the

the church of Brisley: from the Foliots it came to the Hastings, and the Le Stranges, and sir Nicholas Le Strange was lord in 1587.

BISHOP OF NORWICH'S FEE. Walter bishop of Norwich had a charter for free-warren here, and in Elmham, in the 35th of Henry III. and in the fee it remained till granted to Thomas Cromwell by Henry VIII. after the exchange of the lands belonging thereto in 1535; in this family it continued in 1593, when Edward lord Cromwell presented to this church. After this it came to the Athows, Christopher Athow presenting in 1624, and in 1661; but in the year 1681 Christopher Crowe, esq. presented as lord. This family had been settled here some time.

Christopher Crowe, eldest son of Christopher Crowe, esq. of East Bilney, died November 4, 1690, and was buried here, and Christopher Crowe, esq. was lord about the year 1720. After this Thomas Crowe, M.D. of London, whose sister marrying Mr. Munnings, of Norwich, a master-weaver, had by him Christopher Munnings, esq. The Rev. Christopher Munnings, of Lynn-Regis, is the present lord and patron.

The temporalities of Walsingham priory in 1428 were 15d. The tenths were 2l. 14s. Deduct 4s.

In this town was born Thomas Bilney, a learned divine of Cambridge, who was burnt at Norwich in the reign of Henry VIII. 1531, for preaching against the doctrines of the Popish church, *vide Fox's Book of Martyrs*. The register of Butley priory, in Suffolk, after taking notice of him as an heretic, adds—*Presertim fuit p' totam Angliam vehemens scisma inter clerum et populum laicalem, viz. contra sacra ecclesiastica, et ritus clericorum*

clericorum ----- sacerdotum, necnon contra papam, et de indulgentijs, et excommunicationib;

Here was also born Andrew Pern, D. D. master of Peter-house, in Cambridge, and dean of Ely, in the reign of queen Elizabeth.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a rectory, formerly valued at six marks; the present value is 5l. 19s. 1d. ob. and is discharged of tenths, &c.

In 1708 John Jervis was presented by Spelman Crowe, esq. and in 1756 Christopher Munnings, by Mrs. Ann Crowe, widow of Dr. Crowe.

BITTERING, BETRING, or BRITRINGE, as it is wrote in Doomsday-book, was a beruite, or little lordship, belonging to archbishop's Stigand's great manor, or honor of Mileham, and valued with it: here were lands, &c. which Godric claimed, as belonging to the the fee of Ralph earl of the East Angles, or of Norfolk, (as forfeited on his rebellion against the Conqueror); this was held by a certain woman in the time of king Edward, who was ready to put it on trial, or prove that the money it was mortgaged for was paid, though Siward held it still in mortgage, but William de Noiers held it at the survey, with the manor of Mileham, of the king.

Here was also another lordship which Godric farmed of the king, with one in Mileham, where see an account of it; and these two fees made the townships of Bittering *Magna* and *Parva*. Both these fees, or tenures, came into the family of the earls of Arundel with Mileham, of the grant of the Conqueror, to Alan, son of Flaald. William, son of Alan, granted to Durandus, grandson of Siward, this lordship

lordship; Siward was ancestor of a family of L'E Strange.

Jeffrey de Bittering was lord in the 3d and 15th of Edward I. had the assize, view of frank-pledge, waif and stray, in his manor of Bittering *Parva*. In the 30th of that king there was an exchange made between Richard Page, of Bucklow, in Suffolk, and Henry de Bittering, whereby Page grants to Henry all his tenement, &c. in Bucklow, with the advowson of that church, &c. for Henry's tenement in Bittering; but the manor appears to be still in the Bittering family; for in the 9th of Edward II. the earl of Arundel, and John de Bittering, of Bittering *Parva*, were returned to be lords of Bittering *Parva*, and Bittering *Magna*; and in the said year Richard Foliot, as lord of Greffenhall, had a fee in the town of Bittering; so that we are inclined to think that Bittering *Magna*, and *Parva*, were both held of the earl of Arundel, yet two distinct lordships, the first in the family of L'Estrange, and the other in that of de Bittering, as appears from Henry de Bittering's claim against Ralph L'Estrange, of the advowson of the church of Bittering *Parva*, held under the earl of Arundel; and it further appears that the tenths of the Bitterings were joined to those of Greffenhall, and valued together at 6l. out of which 1l. was deducted; and sometimes with Beeston, at 9l. &c.

In 1338 John de Bittering presented to the church as lord; but in 1349 sir Robert de Causton presented, and in the 33d of Edward III. John de Barford granted to sir Ralph de Poley, and sir William de Rushbrook, knts. this manor and advowson, &c. and sir Robert Knolles, knt. settled the lordship of Bittering *Parva*, with the advowson, in the 6th of Richard II. on

II. on his trustees, in order to the founding of a college at Pontefraet, in Yorkshire.

After this it was in the family of Pigot, and in the 11th of Henry VI. Thomas Pigot, esq. conveyed it to Thomas Shouldham, esq. with the advowson; but in the said year Rose, wife of Bartholomew Pigot, of Stradset, died seised of the manor of Bittering, and the advowson, leaving Thomas Pigot, her son. Rose was the daughter of sir Ralph Poley.

In the 33d of Henry VI. sir Andrew Ogard, knt. died seised of it; he married the daughter and heiress of sir John Clifton; but Robert Oker, and Barbara, his wife, passed it in the 17th of Edward IV. to sir Robert Wingfield, who died seised of it, held of the manor of Mileham, in the 21st of Edward IV.

Christopher Crowe, the elder, by deed, dated April 26, in the 37th of Elizabeth, in consideration of 200l. portion paid to Roger Bozoun, father of Elizabeth, and of an intended marriage between his son, Christopher, and the said Elizabeth, infeoffs William Rugge, of Bylaugh, in the hundred of Eynsford, esq. &c. in all his manor of Bittering *Parva*, except thirty-six acres and an half of pasture in Mileham, parcel thereof.

In 1665 Henry Crowe presented to the church as lord; and in 1709 Robert Seaman, gent. and again in 1711. In 1730 Thomas Crowe, M. D. was lord and patron, when he presented the Rev. Christopher Sealby to the rectory, *p. j.*

The church of Bittering *Magna* has been many years dilapidated, but the place where it stood is call-

ed the church-yard. It is now an hamlet annexed to Greffenhall.

The temporalities of Fakenham-dam in 1428 were valued at 10d. per ann.

The church of Bittering *Parva* is a rectory, anciently valued at 40s. the present value is 2l. 13s. 5d. ob. and is discharged of tenths and first-fruits. This church is still standing, but much decayed, and has service in it only once a month; it is covered with thatch, has no steeple, nor bell, and no pulpit, but a desk. In the chancel, which is also thatched, lie one or two grave-stones, with ancient crosses carved on them, for some of the rectors.

BRISLEY is a considerable village, lying on the road from Litcham and Lenwade-bridge to Norwich, and near to the cross road from East Dereham to Fakenham, Wells, &c. The name of this town does not occur in Doomsday-book, as being included under the account of the bishop of Thetford's capital manor of Elmham, to which township it joins. Many have fancied, and concluded, that if a town was not mentioned in the aforesaid book, that it was not then in being; but the design of that survey is to account for all the manors that were held at that time in *capite*, and as that is done under Elmham, there was no reason to mention this village, it being quite unnecessary. That it was a part of the bishop's manor of Elmham aforesaid, appears also from a writ, or mandate, of Henry I. to Roger Bigot, (father of Hugh Bigot, earl of Norfolk) and Ralph Passelewe, to take care that Herbert bishop of Norwich should hold all his land, as well as his men, in Bruselea.

In

In the 4th year of Henry III. there was an affize to enquire who presented the last rector to the church of Brisley, which William de Stuteville, lord of Gressenhall, claimed against Pandulph, bishop of Norwich elect; the bishop moved that he and his successors ought not to be impleaded unless in the presence of the king, (his bench) or justiciary, and if the king, or his justiciary, was not present, he would not answer to it.

The bishop of Norwich had a grant of free-warren here in the 35th of Henry III. and in the 3d of Edward I. the bishop had the affize, and other liberties, from the conquest.

On the exchange of the bishop's lands in the reign of Henry VIII. it was granted with the manor of Elmham to Thomas Cromwell, afterwards earl of Essex. The late Richard Warner, of Elmham, esq. died lord.

The honor and manor of Gressenhall also extended into this town; and in the 8th of Henry III. Pandulph, bishop of Norwich, granted to William de Stuteville, lord of Gressenhall, the advowson of this church, the moiety of the patronage of the church of Bilney being granted by William to the bishop.

Jordan Foliot claimed free-warren in his demesnes here in the 15th of Edward I. after this it came to the Hastings, and so to the L'Estranges, and the late sir Henry L'Estrange, knt. of Hunstanton, was lord of this fee, and patron of the church. The tenths of the town were 6l. Deduct 6s. 8d.

The church is a regular pile, with a nave, a north and south aisle, covered with lead, the chancel tiled, with a lofty embaulted square tower, and four bells.

In the nave a grave-stone,—*For Christopher Athowe, who died Oct. 22, 1585, aged 72.*

One, deprived of its brass plate and inscription, with the shield of Taverner remaining; this was—*In memory of John Taverner, who died in 1548; he married, first, Alice, daughter and heiress of Robert Silvester, of Brisley; his second wife was Ann, daughter of ——— Crowe, of East Bilney.*

In the church chest is a brass plate taken from a grave-stone,—*Orate p. a'ia Edmundi Gogney, qui obiit ij die mensis Julij, anno Dni. M°. Vc. xliiii, cuj; a'ie p'pitiet. &c.*

In the north aisle, on the pavement, at the east end, a grave-stone, covered partly with seats, with a portraiture of a priest, and—*Orate p. a'ia Johis Athowe, quòda. rector. de Horny'toste, qi. obiit xviii die Maij, anno Dni. M°. cccccxxxi.*

By it a mural monument of white marble, with the arms of Brograve, for—*Susannah, wife of Simeon Brograve, gent. who died June 30, 1682.*—Also, for—*Simeon Brograve, gent. who died December 5, 1697, ætat. 67.*—Mrs. Brograve, his second wife, and widow, remarried Dr. Amias, and was buried by her first husband, August 22, 1720.

Edward Brograve was taxed for his lands in 1659, to a militia rate, at 7*l.* per annum.

In the church were the arms of Hastings, of bishop Spencer, and bishop Becks.

Under the east part of the chancel is a crypta, probably an ancient charnel-house, or cell, to some hermit, or anchorite,

The temporalities of Normansburgh priory in 1428 were 2s. 6d.—of Peterston priory 15d. ob.—Castle Acre 5d.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, anciently valued at sixteen marks; the present value is 8l. 7s. 7d. q. and is discharged.

The patronage was chiefly in the family of Hastings, and afterwards in the L'Estranges. In 1742 the Rev. Thomas Weatherhead was presented to this rectory by the late sir Thomas L'Estrange, bart. of Hunstanton. Lady L'Estrange, of Gressenhall, is now patroness.

This town gave name to the deanry, which was taxed at 20s. the archdeacon of Norwich received of the dean of Brisley deanry, in the synod of St. Michael, for synodals 17s. and at Easter 17s. Peterpence paid in the whole deanry 18s. 4d. The deans were collated by the bishop of Norwich.

In 1452 John Toke, by his will, orders, that out of his goods his executors should erect a house for a poor man, to be built on his land, called Caley's, and one acre to keep it in repair.

COLKIRK. This lordship was in the bishops when the see was at Elmham, and held at the survey by William de Beaufoe, bishop of Thetford: when

Ailmer, bishop of Elmham, held it, there was a church endowed with forty acres, valued at 2s. the whole being valued at the survey at 9l. it was five furlongs long, and four broad, and paid 11d. gelt.

Arfastus, or Herfast, bishop of Elmham, had seized on a wood, called Fangeham, containing sixty acres; this was granted in fee to bishop Beaufoe, who gave it to his see, and so was united to the manor aforesaid.

In Doomsday-book it is wrote Colechirca; "*Col*, (says Mr. Parkin) bespeaks some brook, or rivulet, and gives name to many towns; as Colbrook, in Middlesex; Colby, in Norfolk; and Coleshill, from the river Cole, in Warwickshire," &c.

"The adjunct, *chirca* may set forth a clear stream, or water, as Sherburn, in Dorsetshire, and Sherbrook, in Derbyshire, &c. and not from its scite near a church, or kirk, it being so called by the Saxons before their conversion to Christianity.

"The word *kirk* itself denotes a brook, or stream of water, as Kirkburn, in Yorkshire; Kirkstead, in Lincolnshire; Kirkdale, in Lancashire," &c.*

The family of de Colekirk was early enfeoffed of this manor by the bishops of Norwich, and so, according to the practice of that age, assumed their
name

* With due deference to the very *learned* opinion of this reverend author, we think *his* derivation erroneous. The church stands on some of the highest ground in the county, much exposed, and at some distance from any stream of consequence enough to give name to a town. Colkirk is nothing more than a corruption of Cold-kirk, or church; for it is as often wrote church, as kirk—being synonymous terms, locally used.

name from it. William de Colecherch was lord of this town, and of Hempstead, in the 12th of Henry II. and in his 18th year held two knights fees of the old feoffment of the bishop of Norwich: of this family might be Peter de Colechurch, who began to build the stone bridge of London in 1176.

Sarah, the heiress of Colechurch, on her marriage, brought it to the family of St. Denis (*de Sancto Dionysio*) and Roger de St. Denis, probably husband of the said Sarah, held it in the 2d of king John. In the 13th year he was found to have this lordship, late William de Colekirk's, and paid 10s. scutage for half a fee.

Sir Richard de St. Denis, knt. was his son, and lord in the 29th of Henry III. In the 43d of that king sir Richard de St. Denis covenanted with sir Richard de la Rokele, knt. to confirm to him in fee this lordship, with the advowson of the church of Rokely, &c. but Roger le Ken, and John Mansel, had still some right herein, which they conveyed for forty marks of silver to Rokele, in the 4th of Edward I.

Sir Richard de la Rokele died seised of it in the 24th of the said king, held by two parts of three knights fees, valued at 20l. and of the lordship of Gately, valued at 5l. 4s. per annum, leaving Maud his sister and heiress, who married sir Roger de Fraxino, or Atte Ash. In the 35th of Edward I. he had a writ, *ad quod damnum*, for changing a way in this town, and died lord in the 1st of Edward II. leaving Lucia his daughter and heiress, who afterwards was the wife of Robert Baynard, of Whetacre, who in the 4th of Edward III. died seised of it for life, by the courtesy of England, held of the bishop of Norwich,

wich, of his manor of North Elmham, by the service of paying at the end of every thirty-two weeks 10d. castle-guard.

The lordship then had a capital messuage, 160 acres of arable land at 4d. per acre, three acres of meadow at 12d. per acre, ten acres of pasture at 1d. per acre, twenty of underwood, at six years growth, worth 3s. per acre; rent of assize 53s. 4d. payable at Christmas, Whitsuntide, and Michaelmas; a windmill valued at 10s. per ann. also forty quarters of barley at 2s. 8d. per quarter, payable at St. Michael, fifty hens payable at Christmas, at 1d. per hen, the days work of the copyholders, worth 10s. per annum, pleas and perquisites of the court-baron, with court-leet, 10s. per ann. he likewise held the manor of Gately, and the moiety of that of Bale.

In the 16th of Edward III. sir Edmund de Thorpe, lord of Ashwelthorpe, held this manor in right of Joan, his wife, sister and heiress of Thomas Baynard; in this family it remained till Isabel, daughter and coheiress of sir Edmund de Thorpe, (the last heir male of the family being killed in the wars of France, about the end of Henry V.) brought it by marriage to Philip Tilney, esq. of Boston, in Lincolnshire, whose son, Frederick, left a daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, who married sir Humphry Bouchier, eldest son of John lord Berners, slain at Barnet-field on Easter-day, 1471, on the part of Edward IV. Sir John Bouchier, son and heir of sir Humphry, inherited it as heir to his mother, and was summoned to parliament as lord Berners in the reign of Henry VII. and left by Catherine, his wife, daughter of John Howard, duke of Norfolk, at his death in 1532, two daughters and coheiresses, Mary, who died without issue, and Jane, married to Edmund Knevet, esq. serjeant-

serjeant-porter to Henry VIII. who had livery of this lordship in the 25th of that king; and in 1560, being a widow, gave then by will this manor to William, and that of Gately to Edmund Knevet, &c. her younger sons, who both joined and sold Colkirk and Gately to their nephew, sir Thomas Knevet, of Ashwelthorpe, who, with his eldest son, Thomas Knevet, esq. conveyed them to Michael Hare, esq. of Stow-Bardolph, on July 8, in the 33d of Elizabeth, 1591.

About this time, by a rental of this lordship. it appears that there were 275 acres of pasture ground inclosed, 247 of arable, 40 acres in copswood, free-rents per ann. 58s. 6d. 246 acres of copyhold land, fine at the lord's pleasure, 9l. 16s. 8d. rent barley per ann. 6 quarters, lacking half a bushel, at 8s. the quarter, 47s. 6d. rent capons 17s. rent hens 5, 2s. 6d. with feed for 400 and a half of sheep. in the shack from harvest ended to the annunciation of our Lady next after, at 2d. per sheep, 4l. 1s. the patronage of the parsonage. valued at 40l. per ann. *communibus annis*, common, or waste ground, 40 acres, perquisites of court, and leet, *communibus annis*, 3l. 6s. 8d.—*Item*, there are divers bondsmen regardant to the said manor, and do yearly pay the chevage.

Michael Hare, esq. aforesaid, by his will, dated July 15, 1609, gives this lordship, and that of Gately, to his brother, Robert Hare, for life, and then to Nicholas Timperley, esq. his nephew; and the said Robert died seised November 2, in the 9th of James I. and Nicholas, his nephew, was then found to be the son and heir of Thomas Timperley, esq. by Audrey, his wife, daughter of sir Nicholas Hare, of Brusyard, in Suffolk, and sister of Michael and Robert Hare aforesaid.

This

This Nicholas died January 1, 1623, and left by Ann, his wife, daughter and coheirefs of William Markham, esq. of Oakley, in Northamptonshire, Thomas, his son and heir, who succeeded him as lord of this town and Gately; he was afterwards a knight, and by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of John Shelley, esq. of Suffex, left two sons, Michael, and Nicholas, which Nicholas died in 1658, and was buried here; also in the church lies buried William Timperley, who died in 1660, and Nicholas Timperley, esq. who died September 24, 1662.

The last of this family who enjoyed this estate was ——— Timperley, esq. who about the year 1721 sold it to Henry Kelsal, esq. of the treasury, and having wasted most of his estates and fortunes, and being a Roman Catholic, went abroad, and lived in some convent. The present lord is the right hon. George lord viscount Townshend, baron of Lynn and Rainham.

The Timperleys descend from Thomas Timperley, esq. of Bowdon, in Cheshire, who removed from thence to Roydon, in Suffolk, in the reign of Henry VI.

The tenths were 2l. 6s. 8d. Deductions for the lands of the religious 4s. The temporalities of Walsingham priory in 1428 were valued at 1s. Fakenham-dam, (or Hempton) 2s. 4d. Norwich priory, in pasture, 12d. We also find 12d. per ann. paid to the fraternity (or preceptory) of Carbrooke.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and was a rectory, valued at thirty marks per ann. the present value is 10l.

There

There was formerly a vicar under the rector, who was presented by the prior of Wayborne. On the tower is a small but very conspicuous spire, and hath five bells.

In 1346 all the altarage profits were assigned for the support of the vicar, and all the lands wherewith the church was endowed, except the scite of the rectory, and three roods of land opposite to it, to the south.

A mansion was also to be built within six years, at the charge of the convent of Wayborne, and liberty of fishing in the pool against the rectory; 4od. per ann. for wine at the altar; and the repair of the chancel, &c. to be in the convent.

On the north wall of the chancel is a black marble monument, with the arms of Timperley, and this motto:—*Prævide, provide, ne prævenire.*—For William Timperley, who was killed by a pistol bursting in his hand, May 10, 1660.

And on the said wall a mural monument of black and white marble, with the arms of Timperley;—*Nicholas Timperley, esq. died September 4, 1664. Ann Barker, sister to Nicholas, died May 8, 1652.*

Against the south wall, on a mural monument, an hour-glass with wings, a pearl, and an eye with wings, and these verses:

*Lo Time!—Pearl!—Eye! a rebus, which to thee
Speaks what I whilom was, a Timperley.
Wing'd Time is flown, so is the world from me,
A glittering Pearl whose gloss is vanity.*

But

*But th' Eye of hope is of a nobler sight,
To reach beyond thee (death) enjoy his sight,
Who conquer'd thee, hence springs my hope, that I
Shall rise the same, and more a Timperley.*

*Nicholas Timperley. son of sir Thomas Timperley, knt.
of Hintlesham, in Suffolk, died anno 1658.*

Also a flat stone,—*In memory of Nicholas Barker,
esq. who died the 1st of January, 1660,—with the
arms of Barker.*

Within the rails of the communion-table a grave-
stone,—*In memory of Ann Jessop, wife of Mr. Jonathan
Jessop, minister of Colkirk, daughter of John Hills, gent.
and grandchild to Sir John Potts, baronet, who died Fe-
brua y 28, 1659.*

In the 12th of Edward III. the church was appro-
priated by Anthony Beck, bishop of Norwich, to the
prior and convent of Wayborne; and William Bate-
man, bishop, his successor, ordained in this manor,
that the vicarage should be endowed with all the fruits
and profits belonging to the altarage, and all lands
wherein the church was endowed, except the rectory,
and three roods of land opposite to the rectory, on the
south side; the religious to build for the vicar a man-
sion-house, with offices and sufficient outhouses, with-
in six years; in the mean time the vicar shall dwell in
the rectory-house, on the penalty of 40s. to be paid
by the religious to the high-altar of the church of
Norwich, the grainge, barns, and one stable of the
said rectory, being excepted.

The right of fishing on the lake was allowed the
vicar, and liberty of watering cattle in common to
both; the vicar's portion limited at ten marks, that
of

of the religious at twenty; towards the paying of tenths and other dues; the reparations of the chancel, books, and vestments, shall belong to the religious, the vicar to be at all charges in performing Divine services, the religious paying to him 40d. per ann. dated March 4, 1346.

In 1411 sir Edmund de Thorpe, knt. recovered the rectory from the priory of Wayborne, after they had possessed it eighty years, and has continued a rectory ever since.

In 1769 the Rev. Thomas Martin was presented to Colkirk, consolidated with Stibbard, in Gallow hundred, by lord viscount Townshend.

DILLINGTON was part of the lordship of Scarning, held by the Franshams, and on the death of Jeffrey de Fransham in 1414, his inheritance divided between his five sisters and coheiresses; this came with Scarning to Alice, his second, and to Agatha, his fifth sister and coheiress, and so to their posterity, as may be there seen at large. Also the manor of Drayton-hall, in Scarning, extended into this town, of which also see there.

The Rev. Mr. Parkin, in his continuation of Mr. Blomefield's *essay*, accounts for the abbey manors of Herringshaw, and Dikewood, in *Dillington*, though no part of them lie therein, but belong principally to Wendling parish, to which we refer our readers.

We do not meet with any further account of Dillington, but imagine it to have been long ago annexed to Hoe chapel, consolidated with the vicarage of East Dereham in 1533.—The *Index Villaris Norfolciensis* has it “Dillington, cum Hoe.” It lies about
a mile

a mile north of Dereham, on the road to Litcham, and has a neat modern built house of Mr. John Daniels.

DUNHAM *Magna*, or **GREAT DUNHAM**, so called from its scite, *dun* signifying a hill, or rising ground; it was at the survey a beruite to the manor, or honor of Mileham, which William de Noiers held, or farmed, under the Conqueror, who seized on it on the deprivation of archbishop Stigand, who was lord in the reign of the Confessor, and there belonged to it the moiety of a market, and half an acre of land in Thetford, &c. the whole, including the manor of Mileham, and the beruite of Litcham, was valued in the time of king Edward at 30*l.* at the survey at 60*l.* it was three leucas long, and one broad, and paid 20*d.* to a 20*s.* gelt, whoever may have it.

ARUNDEL'S FEE, or HARSTICK'S MANOR. This was granted soon after to Alan son of Flaald, ancestor of the Fitz-Alans, earls of Arundel.

Alice, widow of Eudo de Harfick, held here and in Southacre, in the reign of Henry III. one fee of the honor of Mileham, and sir Roger Harfick held it under the earl of Arundel in the 3*d* of Edward I. and the moiety of a weekly market on Saturday, with the assize, and view of frank-pledge; and in the 2*d* of Edward II. John de Harfick had a charter of free-warren.

On the death of sir Roger Harfick in 1454, who married Alice, daughter of Nicholas Witchingham, of Fishley, in Norfolk, esq. it came to his two daughters and coheiresses, Margaret, and Jane; and on a division of the Harficks estate, this was assigned to Jane, the youngest, who married Richard Dorward, esq.

esq. (third son of John Dorward, esq. serjeant at law, and speaker of the house of commons) by whom he had a daughter and sole heiress, Margaret, who was the wife of sir John Wingfield, fourth son of sir John Wingfield, of Letheringham, in Suffolk, and in her right was lord of this village, and dying in the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. was buried in the chancel of Dunham church, as was his lady, in or about 1509.

Thomas Wingfield was their son and heir, who married Elizabeth, daughter of sir Thomas Wodehouse, of Kimberley, by whom he had two sons, Roger, and John, who left by Ann, his wife, daughter of Thomas Townshend, of Testerton, a daughter and sole heiress, Ann, married to Thomas Athow, esq. of Beacham-Well; serjeant at law; Roger, the elder brother, married Elizabeth, daughter of John Golding, of Belchamp St. Paul's, in Essex, and had a son, John, who died without issue. Roger, his father, conveyed by fine to Thomas Golding, gent. son of John Golding, gent. this manor of Harficks, and the manor of Rous, in this town, in the 38th of Henry VIII. with other lands, &c. in Dunham *Magna* and *Parva*, and East Lexham; and in the 6th of Elizabeth sir Thomas Golding, knt. and Henry Golding, esq. conveyed to Nicholas and William Mynns the aforesaid two manors.

In 1572 Andrew Clerk presented as lord, and Christian, his wife. After this, in the reign of James I. Henry Bastard, gent. was lord, and presented to this church in 1599, and in 1616; and in 1660 Mary, widow of Thomas Hogan, esq. His son, Thomas Hogan, esq. was lord in 1716, and by his wife, a daughter of Matthew Heliot, gent. of Litcham,

Litcham, had Thomas, his son and heir, a lunatic, living in 1760.

ROUS'S MANOR was part of the lord Bardolph's manor of Litcham, which extended into this town, and East Lexham, and was held by Richard Rous in the reign of Henry III. and by Alan, his son, in the 15th of Edward I. who with Jordan Foliot claimed a moiety of a weekly market on Saturday, with the Harficks, who had the other moiety.

From the Rous's it came to the Lexhams, and after to the Mundefords, by marriage of the heiress of de Lexham; and the heirs of Osbert Mundeford, in the 4th of Henry IV. held the manor of Rous, in Dunham, and East Lexham, by half a fee.

William de Rothing, who had a lordship in Wellingham of lord Baynard's fee, had also a lordship belonging to the same fee in this town, and claimed in the 15th of Edward I. a weekly market in Dunham *Magna*, on Wednesday, and a fair yearly on the vigil, the day, and day after St. Margaret.

The earl Warren's manor, or honor of Greffinghall, extended also into this town. Wimerus, lord of Greffinghall, gave the patronage of the church to Castle Acre priory; this was afterwards held by the Stuteviles, Foliots, Hastings, &c.

At the survey Ralph de Tony had one soc-man, who held thirty acres and a half of land under Harold in the time of king Edward, with four borderers, and one carucate; this was valued under his capital manor of Necton.

It was part of Sparham-hall, in Necton, and was called Corbet's, or Churchman's manor, and held by sir John le Briston in the 3d of Edward I. and by Ralph Churchman in the time of Richard II. and afterwards by the Cockets, in the 1st of Edward VI. In 1633 Henry Beck purchased it of Osbert Prat.

The temporalities of Castle Acre priory were, in 1428, 4s. 4d.—Westacre, 12d.—Langley priory, 4s. 2d.—Walsingham priory, 8d.

In the 3d of Elizabeth, September 15, lands, called Walsingham Acre, and Walsingham, two acres in the tenure of Henry Rust, were granted to sir Edward Warner, and Ralph Shelton, with lands belonging to Langley abbey, in the tenure of Thomas Wingfield.

In the 5th and 6th of Philip and Mary sir George Howard, knt. had a grant of twenty-one acres of land in this town, and East Lexham, with liberty of a foldage, in the tenure of sir Nicholas L'Estrange, lately belonging to Magdalen chapel, in Gaywood, by Lynn.

Richard Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel, gave lands to that chapel, or hospital, in the reign of Edward I. in this town, and East Lexham, and sir Eudo Harlick gave them lands and a fold-course for 250 sheep.

From ancient writings it appears that there were two churches in this town, that of St. Mary, and St. Andrew, and institutions into both to the year 1491.

Wimer, lord of Gressenhall, *dapifer* to the first earl Warren, is said to have given to the priory of
C Castle

Castle Acre the church of Dunham *Magna*; but it is not expressed which church, probably that of St. Andrew, Hervey Canis giving to the said priory the church of St. Mary of Dunham *Magna*, with the advowson, and confirmed to the said priory all the donations of his predecessors, and five acres at Racheness, with part of his meadow at Sudacre, near to their court from the outward ditch, which joins to the meadow of the monks, straitways to the great water *s. d.*

Sometimes this church of St. Mary is called a chapel, and Eborard bishop of Norwich, in the reign of Henry I. is said to have confirmed the church of Dunham, with the chapel of St. Mary, to the aforesaid priory; and John de Oxford, bishop of Norwich, in the time of Henry II. confirmed also the churches of St. Andrew, and St. Mary, or Dunham-market, at the presentation of the prior and convent of Castle Acre.

These two churches, of St. Andrew and St. Mary, were standing probably in 1518, though in the institution books of Norwich mention is made only of St. Mary, into which the rectors were instituted then, and that only appears to be valued in the king's books.

In 1522, February 6, sentence was given for the right of the rector of the churches of St. Mary and St. Andrew, of Dunham *Magna*, to take tithes of thirteen acres of land, called Penton's.

The ancient value of the rectory of Dunham St. Mary was twelve marks, and the prior of Sporle had a pension out of it of 13s. 4d. In the 15th of Henry VI. Joan, queen dowager of England, wife
of

of Henry IV. died seised of it, being an *alien* priory dissolved. The present value is 12l. 1s. 10d. ob. and the tenths of the town were 7l. 18s.—Deduct 1l.

On the dissolution of religious houses Thomas prior of Castle Acre conveyed the patronage to Henry VIII. in his 29th year; and on December 22, in the said year, the king granted it to Thomas duke of Norfolk.

In 1752 the Rev. John Arnham was presented to the rectory of Great Dunham by the crown, by reason of the lunacy of Thomas Hogan, gent. patron.

In the parlor of Dunham-hall were the following arms formerly in the glass:—Wingfield impaling Bovile; Wingfield and Bovile, quarterly, impaling Glanvile; Wingfield impaling Fitz-Lewes; Wingfield impaling Townsend; Waldgrave and Bacon; Waldgrave and Athow; Athow and Curson; Dorward impaling Coggeshall; Fincham impaling Stead; Berry; Walpole impaling Shaw, Harlick, and Caily; Robbert.

In the parlor chamber are the arms of Howard duke of Norfolk quartering Brotherton, the earl Warren and Mowbray.

In the hall, Athow impaling Thoresby; Athow and Curson quarterly, impaling Jennison.

The church is built in a conventual form, with a tower between the nave and chancel, which is thatched, but the nave is leaded.

In the chancel is a grave-stone,—*In memory of Henry Baslard, gent. lord of this manor, who died August 23, 1624, atal. 62 and 11 months,—with his arms.*

DUNHAM Parva, or LITTLE DUNHAM. Of this town we meet with no account in the book of Doom-day, it being part of the king's manor of Sporle, and farmed of him by Godric, and so is accounted for under Sporle : it remained royal demesnes till Henry I. granted it, together with Sporle, to Baldwin de Bosco, or Bois, who on the marriage of his daughter and coheirefs, Hildeburgh, granted it to Henry de Vere, and he granted it to sir Ralph de Briston.

In the 5th of Henry III. Alianore, widow of Reginald de Dunham, possessed lands here. This family held the lordship under the Bristons. John de Dunham held a quarter of a fee here, and in Beelton ; and in the 15th of Edward I. claimed the affize of his tenants, waif, and other royal privileges in this town.

John de Dunham, by fine levied, settled it on sir John de Briston, with all its services and rents. Sir John was a parliamentary baron in the 29th of that king, and in the 33d one of the justices of trial-baston, whose son, John, died seised in 1311, leaving Maud his sister and heirefs, the wife of sir Richard de la River, of Ongar, in Essex, who became lord in her right, and of Sporle, and died in the 10th of Edward III. leaving Maud his widow.

Thomas de Batesford presented to this church in 1338, in right of Maud aforesaid, then his wife.

In the 49th of Edward III. sir Robert Swillington, knt. and John Garleke, and their wives, conveyed this lordship to sir Robert Corbet, senior, whose wife also was daughter and coheirefs of sir Richard de la River.

Sir Robert Corbet, jun. was also a knight, and lord of this town, and of Affington, in Suffolk, who dying without issue male, in 1438, left Sybill, his daughter and heirefs, who married John Greville, esq. of Gloucestershire, and dying without issue in the 23d of Henry VI. Guy Corbet, her uncle, became lord of this town, and Affington, and by Joan, his wife, daughter of sir Edmund Thorpe, the elder, of Ashwelthorpe, had sir Robert Corbet, his son and heir, who married Elizabeth, daughter of ——— Dorward, of Rocking, in Essex, who settled this lordship in the 33d of the said king on sir John Fortescue, knt. lord chief justice of the King's-bench, and John Prisot, chief justice of the Common-pleas.

This sir Robert was father of Robert Corbet, esq. who married Maud, daughter of the aforesaid sir John Fortescue; and afterwards married (during the said Maud, his first wife's life, forsaking her) Lettice, daughter of John Shirewood, of Coventry, and left issue by her, Robert and Alice, his first wife, Maud, surviving him, from whom he never was divorced; upon this Roger Corbet, esq. his brother, second son of sir Robert aforesaid, made an entry into his lands as next and legal heir; but Lettice aforesaid having married ——— Talboys, a servant to Thomas Rotherham, archbishop of York and chancellor of England, Roger sued him in the spiritual court of Canterbury, and Talboys procuring a prohibition, Roger appealed to Rome, and a writ was directed by Rotherham, to Roger, of *Ne exeat regnum*; upon this Roger was laid

laid up in the counter two years, but being enlarged in the last year of Edward IV. died presently after.

It appears that Maud, first wife, had a jointure of twenty marks per ann. out of this manor: she retired, and lived in the nunnery of Hellenstow, in Bedfordshire, and died there.

In the 12th year of Edward IV. during the suits above-mentioned, Margaret Corbet, sister of sir Robert Corbet, deceased, father of Robert and Roger, died, having sold this lordship to John Coket, sen. In 1479 the said John presented to this church, and Thomas Coket, esq. was lord and patron in 1511. Passing through other families it came from Philip Audley to sir Edward Coke, who was lord in 1601. Sir Edward, by deed dated November 4, in the 15th of James I. settled it, with Thornham-bishop's, in Norfolk, and Elmham, &c. on Frances, his daughter, fourth wife of sir John Villiers, afterwards viscount Purbeck, after his and his wife's death, and she presented in 1640. On her death it came to Robert Danvers, esq. son of lord viscount Purbeck aforesaid, by his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of sir William Slingsby, of Kippax, in Yorkshire, knt. of whom she was privately delivered, and he was for a long time called Robert Wright.

This Robert taking to wife the daughter and heirs of sir John Danvers, one of those who found Charles I. guilty, obtained a patent from Oliver Cromwell to change his name to Danvers, and died seised of this lordship February 18, 1657, but not without issue, as Dugdale says.

In 1682 sir William Rawlston, knt. presented as lord; and in 1692 John Turner is said to have bought

bought it of Francis Drury; but in 1708 Thomas Rogers, esq. of Cley by the Sea, possessed it, and presented to the church, and Thomas Rogers, esq. alderman of Norwich, is the present lord.

The manor once possessed by the Turners was sold by sir John Turner to Mr. Backler; the scite is in Great Dunham manor, Rogers' is in Little Dunham, and does not seem to have belonged to the Turners, unless the Turners had two manors.

The tenths of the town were 3l. 16s. 11d.—Deduct 1l.—The honor, or manor of Hockering, extended into this town.

In the 19th of Edward I. Godfrey de Beaumont held here, in Scarning, &c. four fees of the aforesaid honor; and in the 9th of Edward II. Walter de Langton, and Joan Beaumont, held lands in this town, Scarning, and Fransham, by four fees, of John le Marshall.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Margaret; the old value was eighteen marks; the present value is 9l. 15s. 11d. ob. and is discharged. In 1431 we find a legacy to the new building of the tower. In the 18th of Edward I. sir John de Briston had the patronage of it; and in 1308 sir John de Dunham, knight.

In 1748 the Rev. Charles Allen was presented to the rectory of Little Dunham by the late Thomas Rogers, esq. alderman of Norwich.

ELMHAM, called NORTH ELMHAM, in respect of South Elmham, in Suffolk; it is seated on the south-west side of the river Wensum, and also has a small brook,

brook, which running from the park, empties itself in the said river, and not the Hier, as some improperly term it.

In the survey it is wrote Elmenham; *el*, in the British tongue bespeaks water, and *main*, or *menna*, little; of this kind is Elmswell, in Suffolk, Elmstead, and Elmley, in Kent, and Gloucestershire, &c.—*Parkin*.

At the survey, when the seat of the bishop was at Thetford, it was found to be in the fee, and was held by bishop Ailmar in the time of the Confessor for a lordship, when there belonged to it eight carucates of land, forty-one villains, sixty-three borderers, six servi, twenty-four acres of meadow, four carucates in demesne, and sixteen amongst the tenants, or men, paunage for 1000 swine, four mills, 3 runci, &c. 300 sheep, thirty-five goats, and thirty-four soc-men, with a carucate of land.

Stigand had the soc in the time of king Edward, and it was at the survey in the lord of Mileham, and there belonged to it three carucates, four acres of meadow, &c. and a mill.

Beetley was a beruite, or small manor, belonging to it, and valued with it. In this manor of Elmham there was then a church, endowed with sixty acres, and one carucate, valued at 5s. 4d. per ann.

In the time of king Edward the whole was 10l. per ann. at the survey 32l. it was one leuca long, and half a leuca broad, and paid 20d. gelt.

This place is supposed to have been the seat of a Flamen in the time of the Romans, and at the time of the conversion of the East Angles, by Fœlix, the
bishop

bishop, was held by him (their first bishop) by the grant of king Sigebert on his death, in 647; when Bifus, the fourth bishop of the East Angles, about 673, divided his diocese, being too large, one bishop was appointed to reside at North Elmham, to whom the jurisdiction of Norfolk was assigned, and the other at Dunwich, with the jurisdiction of Suffolk.

These two sees were again united about 870, and Wildred, who was then bishop, resided at North Elmham, and so remained till removed to Thetford, by Herfast the bishop, in 1075, and thence to Norwich, by bishop Herbert, in 1094; but the bishops of Norwich after resided here in their manor-house, it being the head of his barony (as some have said) at that time.

Bishop Turbus, who lived in the reign of king Stephen, confirmed to the priory all former grants of his predecessors, with the church of this town, and the fair.

In the 7th of Richard I. the sheriff of Norfolk paid 18d. per ann. to the bishop for his liberty of Elmham-madoc.—*History of the Exchequer*, p. 560.

John de Grey, bishop in the time of king John, confirmed to them the liberty of feeding their cattle every where with his, (excepting his park) freely, not paying for their herbage, with paunage for their swine, and to dig turf for their own use.

Pandolf, bishop of Norwich, and the pope's legate, after he had excommunicated king John and his kingdom, retired here.

William de Raleigh, bishop, about 1240, was impleaded with Henry de Edlingthorpe, &c. for throwing down unjustly the dam of Jeffrey de Hindringham, and Ricolda, his wife, in this town and Guist, to their damage; but on proof that Jeffrey had made the banks of his pool too high, he was amerced in the bishop's court here.

Walter de Suffield, bishop, had a charter of free-warren in this manor in the 35th of Henry III. and in the 14th of Edward I. the bishop of Norwich had frank-pledge, a gallows, tumbrel, soc and sac, thol and them, infangthef and outfangthef, return of writs, judgment of duels, trial ordeal by fire or water, goods of felons and fugitives, a coroner within this manor, liberties of all pleas and assize to be determined by justices on the spot to be sent to this town, and tried there; and several precedents of justices-itinerant, who were sent and tried causes here, are mentioned on record.

In the 11th year of Richard II. Henry Spencer, bishop, had a licence to embattle and make a castle of his manor-house, when he seems to have rebuilt it, which is now entirely demolished; the scite of it was on a grand artificial hill, or mount, on a rising ground, surrounded with a great and deep entrenchment, (containing about five acres) formerly, no doubt, full of water, to which belonged a noble demesne, and a park. That it was always a place of strength, or castle, is highly probable, most of the bishops in ancient days having castles for their seats. The inner keep* was also encompassed with a deep ditch,

* The ruins are overgrown with thorns; heaps of stones and rubbish lie here. The entrance into this castle seems to have been on the east side, and stood about 100 yards north of the church.

ditch, containing within it two acres, joining south, and in the south-west part of which it stood, and had a deep well.

In this state it continued till on the exchange of lands between Henry VIII. and bishop Nix this manor, &c. was vested in that king by act of parliament, February 4, in the 27th of his reign.

On July 14, in his 28th year, he granted it, with the advowson of the vicarage, and the manor of Beetley, to Thomas lord Cromwell; and on July 14, in his 30th year, he granted them to him and his heirs general.

This Thomas Cromwell was his principal agent in dissolving the monasteries; created lord Cromwell, of Oakham, in Rutlandshire, July 9, in the 28th year of the said king; and April 17, in the 31st of Henry VIII. earl of Essex; but on July 24, in the following year, was beheaded.

By a daughter (as some say) of ——— Williams, gent. of Wales, he left Gregory, his son and heir; but Dugdale takes that to be a mistake.

In a pedigree that we have, he is said to have married Elizabeth, the daughter and coheirefs of John Prior, (widow of Thomas Williams) by Isabel, his wife, daughter of Richard lord Talbot.

In this pedigree Thomas earl of Essex is said to be the son of Walter Cromwell, of Oakham, in Rutlandshire, from which town he took his title, (before he had the grant of the castle and manor there) as Dugdale, &c. assert, in the 28th of Henry VIII. yet it appears that in the acts of parliament in the 31st of

of that king, chap. 3, he is called baron of Wimbledon, in Surrey, and *not* of Oakham.

Gregory, son and heir of Gregory Cromwell, about five months after his father's death was created a baron of England, by the title of lord Cromwell, but not distinguished by any place, and was lord of this manor. By Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of sir John Seymour, of Wolfs-hall, in Wiltshire, sister to Edward Seymour, duke of Somerset, and widow of sir Anthony Oughtred, he left at his death, in the 5th of Edward VI. Henry, his son and heir, who married Mary, daughter of John Pawlet, marquis of Winchester, and dying November 20, 1592, the jury, on an inquisition taken *post mortem*, find Edward to be his son and heir, and that Thomas earl of Essex, his grandfather, by deed, dated December 26, in the 30th of Henry VIII. entailed this manor, with that of Beetley, &c. Oakham, &c. in Rutlandshire, on Gregory, his son.

Edward lord Cromwell wasted (as sir Henry Spelman observes) his whole inheritance almost in England, and changed some that remained with the earl of Devonshire; but this manor was sold by him to Edward Coke, esq. (afterwards lord chief justice, &c.) who was lord in the 40th of Elizabeth; and in the 15th of James I. was settled with others (as is said) on Frances, his daughter, married to sir John Villiers, knt. afterwards lord viscount Purbeck.

In the year 1631 sir Edward Coke presented to this church. This Edward lord Cromwell removed into Ireland, and was there buried, leaving Thomas lord Cromwell his son and heir, (by Frances, his wife, daughter of William Rugge, esq. of Felmingham, in Norfolk)

Norfolk) who was created viscount Lecale, and earl of Ardglass, in Ireland.

In 1659 John Coke, esq. presented to this vicarage, and at that time he was charged at 120*l.* per annum for his park in his own hands, and for part of his estate, held by Nathaniel Duckett, 30*l.* per annum; for that held by John Spooner 90*l.* per annum; for that held by Rose Crome 50*l.* per annum; by Robert Hase 10*l.* per annum; by Henry Lushers 80*l.* and Joseph Isaac 10*l.* per annum.

Afterwards the estate here was mortgaged (the park excepted) to Hugh Audley, of the Inner Temple, London, esq. on whose death it came, with the rest of his personal estate, to his executors, William Harvey, esq. &c. and so to Robert Harvey, of Low-Layton, in Essex, esq. son of the aforesaid William, who presented in 1680, and John Harvey, esq. in 1704.

Richard Warner, esq. purchased the manor and patronage of the vicarage of the Harveys, and presented in 1723, and 1741; he built an agreeable new manor-house, &c. and died June 1, 1757, aged 89, leaving his estate to his daughters and coheiresses; Mary, the eldest, married Christopher Mills, esq. of Nackington, in Kent, and Richard Mills, esq. his son and heir, is the present lord and patron.

NOWERS'S MANOR took its name from a family ancient lords of it, and was granted from the capital manor by some bishop of Norwich. Milo de Noiers (descended from William de Noiers, most likely a great favorite of William the Conqueror) was lord about the year 1180, when the prior of
Norwich

Norwich complained that certain tithes due from his demesnes were refused to be paid to him, which sir Simon de Noiers, son of Milo, had given, (viz. two garbs of his tithe) to the church of the Holy Trinity of Norwich, about 1130, and these tithes were ceded to the prior.

In the 7th of Edward II. Richard de Coleburne, of East Dereham, and Margaret, his wife, conveyed to sir William de Hackford this manor. Sir William left two daughters and coheireffes; Joan, married sir John Seckford; and Elizabeth, Henry de Elmham.

In the 6th of Edward III. sir John Seckford conveyed to Henry de Elmham lands in this town, Calthorpe, and Bodham, which Margaret, widow of sir William de Hackford, held for life. Henry was probably father of sir William Elmham, who died in the 4th year of Henry IV. and was buried in the abbey of Bury.

“ Sir William was accused in parliament in the 7th of Richard II. and condemned for having received of the king's enemies in France 3400 franks of gold *for making peace with them**, whilst in the army commanded by Spencer, bishop of Norwich, &c. and the king wrote to the sheriff of Norfolk to levy the same on the lands and goods of sir William, to arrest him, and bring him before the king and council, to be imprisoned till he should satisfy him by a fine and ransom; but had after a pardon in the said year.”

In

* *O temporal O mores!*

In the 16th of Edward IV. Robert Bog, of Worstead, granted to Henry Smith, &c. the lordship of Noiers, from the heirs of his wife.

Roger Martin, of Long Melford, in Suffolk, esq. in the 9th of Elizabeth, November 29, granted to Roger Bozoun, esq. of Study, in Holt hundred, the manor and demesnes of Nowers, *alias* Hedges, Dunham's, Bower's, and Smith's; and Roger Bozoun, June 1, in the said year, sold it to Richard Franklyn, of North Erpingham, butcher. In the 40th of the said queen Edward Coke, esq. then attorney general, was lord of it, and so it was united to the capital manor, as it now remains.—The tenths of the town were 7l. 10s. Deducted 13s. 4d.

In this town lived the ancient family of the Taverers; Ralph le Taverner held lands here in the year 1272; John Taverner signalized himself at the battle of Agincourt, October 25, 1415, and Henry, his elder brother, was a counsellor at Law, and had lands here at his death, in the 6th of Edward IV. From this family the Taverers of Essex, Oxfordshire, and Bedfordshire, are descended.

Thomas, *alias* James Taverner, of North Elmham, married Grace, daughter and heiress of John Ruffel, of Wighton, in North Greenhoe hundred, relict of Edmund Bedingfield, esq. and was living in the 18th of Elizabeth, and had by her Thomas Taverner, living in the year 1636, whose wife, Ann, survived him, and was living in 1659; she was then taxed to the militia rate for lands here at 80l. per annum.

Charles Taverner, gent. was buried here in 1683, and Ann, his wife, in 1682, and Charles Taverner, gent. his son, in 1682.

Here is a fair kept annually, on the annunciation of the blessed Virgin, (April 5, 1781) and the profits of it are said to have been given to the priory of Norwich, by Herbert the bishop.

In a close, called Broom-close, about half a mile, or more, from the town, lying on the west side of the road from Elmham to Beetley, of a dry sandy, or gravelly soil, on a rising ground, a river running in the valley, have been found many urns of a coarse earth, the work rough and uneven, but generally well burnt, some of them indented, and some plain, some of a blue, and some of a yellow colour, without any covers; the size various, some holding a quart, some two or three quarts, or a gallon, and very tender (as most urns are) when first exposed to the air; some are found very near the surface of the earth, others two or three spit deep, containing many small pieces of bones, turned black with burning, others full of ashes, with some pieces of coarse glass run, and sticking to the bones, and in the ashes; some with pieces of brass melted, and unmelted, also with pieces of iron, so decayed with rust, that their figure, or use, does not appear; some with small knives eat up with rust, also with small pincers, or nippers, commonly of brass, perfect and good, which demonstrates the great antiquity of the place.

A penknife found in one about four inches and a half long, with a wrought handle.—A bodkin of the same size.—A dagger about one foot long, with a wrought handle, hilt, and bar, found in a ditch.—A green glass in form of a cone, about four inches long

long, and three inches diameter at the bottom, and one at the top, probably a lacrymatory, found in an urn.

In February, 1711, some laborers repairing the fence on the south side of this close, or in raising a new ditch, dug up about thirty urns, but found little valuable or curious in them, only ashes and dust; this induced other persons to make further trial, who found several thereabouts.

One person employed in the search is said to have taken up about 120, yet the compass of the ground that was thus turned up did not exceed a rood of ground; some coins however have been found here.

In a piece of ground, about two furlongs south of the town, in the road to East Dereham, (where old wells and foundations of houses are to be seen) a countryman digging to sow carrots, about sixty years past, is said to have dug up the quantity of a pint and a half.

These silver ones were found in this last mentioned place:—**VESPATIANVS. AVG.** the reverse the image of the goddess Peace, seated, with an olive branch in her right hand.

CÆSAR. DIVI. F. DOMITIANVS. COSS. VIII.
—The reverse—**PRINCEPS. JVVENTVTIS.**

DIVA FAVSTINA.—Reverse,—standing as a goddess, with a wand in her right hand.

LVCILLA. AVGVSTA. ANTONINI. AVGVSTI. FILIA.—Reverse,—**CONCORDIA,** seated.—Also one with a G.

CONSTANTIVS. NOB. CÆSAR.—Reverse,—
Roman trophies between two foldires, GLORIA. EX-
ERCITVS. This is of brass.

Here was also found a silver Roman ring, the impress an eagle, with a thunder-bolt in his beak.—These coins prove this to have been a Roman station.

Dr. Plot, in his History of Staffordshire, observes, “that neither the Saxons, or Danes, after their arrival into this island, ever burned their dead, whatever they might do before; and in his History of Oxfordshire, that they made their works so indistinguishable from the Romans, (otherwise than by the Roman money found under them) that they can scarce be known asunder; so that whatever of their fortifications, called Barrows, abusively, have no money found near them, must be concluded, (as he thinks) either Saxon, or Danish; Saxon, if square; Danish, if round; the first, called Falkmotes, places of meeting on approach of an enemy, or the hundred meeting courts, or Danes raths.”

But that the Danes did anciently burn before they invaded England, appears from Odinus, an ancient Danish king, who enjoined the dead to be burned, and ordered his own domestics to burn him when dead; and so they continued for a long time after, and it seems not to be discontinued till the time of Charles the Great, the emperor, about the year 800, who converting many heathens to the Christian faith, and being stiled “the most Christian king,” forbade this practice, and that if any one should burn the bodies of the dead, he should be put to death for so doing.

The Saxons also (after the Danish manner) in Germany, used to burn their dead, and to erect a tumulus over their burnt ashes; and the said emperor commanded the bodies of Christian Saxons to be brought to the church-yard, and not to the tumuli of the Pagan-Saxons; yet we are persuaded, that this practice was used at this time in England, and after, to the days of king Alfred.

It appears that here was in the Conqueror's, and king Edward's time, a church, well endowed with fifty acres and a carucate of land. Herbert bishop of Norwich is said to have new built it in the reign of William II. being so enjoined by the pope, for his simony, and appropriated the rectory of this church to the priory of Norwich, founded by him, and held by the late Richard Warner, esq. of the dean and chapter of Norwich.

In the 3d year of the pontificate of William de Raleigh the vicar's portion was settled, and a house was granted to him by the church, on the west side, with ten acres of freehold arable land, by the consent and agreement of Simon the prior and convent of Norwich, with all offerings, oblations, and small tithes, and of pease and beans in the parish; also all the tithes, as well great as small, issuing out of 500 acres of land plowed, and from the freehold which the prior and convent held in demesne at the time of the taxation of the vicarage; also all the great and small tithes issuing out of nine acres of arable land in divers pieces, with all the tithe of hay, turf, and the mills.

A dispute arising in 1277 between the prior and convent, who had the rectory, and Robert, then vicar, concerning the repair of the chancel, and the orna-

ments thereof, as well within as without, it was determined by the bishop of Norwich, "that considering how amply it was endowed, it should be repaired by the vicar;" dated at Thorpe, by Norwich, the 11th of October, 1277.

The appropriated rectory was taxed at thirty marks before the dissolution, and the vicarage at fifteen marks, and was not visited by the archdeacon, &c. being then the bishop's manor. The present value of the vicarage is 13l. 14s. 11d.

The vicars were collated to the vicarage by the bishop of Norwich, till the exchange with Henry VIII.

In 1741 Thomas Gregory was presented by Richard Warner, esq. and in 1777 the Rev. Thomas Herring was presented to the vicarage of North Elmham by Richard Milles, esq. the present worthy lord and patron, who was representative for the city of Canterbury in the two last parliaments.

Here was a church built new by bishop Herbert, but the present does not appear to be of that antiquity; it is a large regular pile, consisting of a middle, north and south aisle, supported by six pillars on each side, forming seven arches on each side, with a chancel, all covered with lead; it is dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary.

On the belfry are the arms of Richard Warner, esq. —Warner and Whitehall, quarterly, impaling Hastings and Lombe.

At the west end stands a lofty four-square tower, with a shaft, or small spire, covered with lead, with five bells, and a clock.

On

On the pavement are grave-stones,—*In memory of Edward Harvey, and Philippa, his wife; he died in 1685, aged 48; she in 1704, aged 64.*

One,—*In memory of Amy, wife of John Spooner, who died in 1677, aged 72.*

Hic jacet Tho. Smith, pastor hujus ecclesiæ, qui obt. 7 Sept. 1631.

John Read, vicar, obt. March 11, 1703.

Hic jacet Gul. Turner, legis peritus, vir invicti laboris et industriæ, certavit enim cum loquentis lingua, scribentis manu, et ex utrisq; amplissimum cepit fructum, favente numine mirum in modum ditatus obt. 13 id. Jan. anno ætat. 45, abi lector et disce Deum omnia rendere laboribus.

In memory of Charles Turner, senior, gent. and Elizabeth, his wife; he died in 1681, aged 83; she in 1683, aged 79.

In the east window are the arms of bishop Spencer, and sir Edward Coke.

In the vestry, or chapel, on the south side, a grave-stone, with the arms of Taverner,—*In memory of Ann, daughter of Charles Taverner, gent. and wife of William Harvey, gent. lineally descended from the ancient family of the Taverners, of North Elmham, who died March 15, 1712, aged 32.*

On a grey marble,—*Orate p. a'i'a. Johan. Fyttcher, cuj. &c.*

In the east window the arms of the priory, now the deanry of Norwich, argent, a cross, sable; also a

grave-stone,—*In memory of Barthol. Snetting, senior, gent. who died January 12, 1682, aged 61.*

At the east end of the south aisle hangs an achievement, Veyfie impaling Crowe. The height of the tower, with its lantern and weather-cock, is 119 feet; length of the church 157 feet; breadth from out to out 66 feet*.

Simon Dethick, of North Elmham, gent. by his will, dated January 10, 1542, died seised of lands here, in Beetley, Bittering, East Dereham, and Hoe, and was buried in the chapel of St. James in this church.

The town of Elmham lies on the road from east Dereham, five miles; to Holt, thirteen; and close north of the road from Lynn-Regis, by Litcham, twenty-four miles; to Norwich, 17. The church, castle, and principal part of the village, are situated on an eminence, rising from the river Wensum; and Mr. Milles' seat, which stands a little westward, is finely environ'd by a park, many beautiful plantations, water, and other objects of use and ornament. The ancient park of North Elmham lies near Brisley, being the property of Thomas William Coke, esq. of Holkham, and is well stocked with deer.

FRANSHAM *Magna*, or GREAT FRANSHAM, called Fraudesham in Doomsday-book, and was then the lordship

* A north view of this church was published in Mr. Parkin's continuation of an "Essay towards a History of Norfolk," at the bottom of which is the following note: "Where, within one hundred yards north, stood the ancient seat of the bishop of Norwich, now demolished: this place is famous for the many urns dug in several places in the said parish, in the lands of Mr. John Taverner Harvey, where, it is said, remains many undug."

lordship of William earl Warren. In king Edward's reign it was held by eleven free-men, of whom the predecessor of Fedric had the protection only, and afterwards Fedric was lord, who was ejected, and Gilbert then held it under William earl Warren, valued at 30s.

“*Frau*, in the British tongue, is *flour lenis*, a gentle run of Water; hence Franston, and Framedden, in Suffolk, Frenge, in Norfolk, Frekenham, &c. *Frau* is the name of a river in Wales.”—*Parkin*.

Gillebert, or Gilbert, before-mentioned, seems to be the ancestor of the ancient family of Fransham, lords of this town.

In the reign of Richard I. and Henry III. a family of the name of Fransham had an interest here; and sir Gilbert de Fransham, knt. confirmed by deed, without date, to the priory of Castle Acre, all the lands and tenements which they had of the gift of Thomas de Fransham.

In the 52d of Henry III. on the foundation of Wendling abbey, Gilbert de Fransham was then lord, and gave his consent to the settling of lands belonging to his fee, and also was present.

In the 3d of Edward I. sir William de Fransham was lord, and had the assize of bread and beer, and paid to the sheriff of Norfolk for a piece of arable land, (*pro cultura*) called Pilewood, 12d. per annum quit-rent, due from the conquest. This William was the king's sub-escheator in his 20th year; and in 1323 Gilbert, his son, presented to the rectory of this church.

Jeffrey de Fransham, esq. lord of this town, died without issue in 1414; and his five sisters and coheiresses were, Alianore, Alice, Agnes, Beatrix, and Agatha; and on Alianore, Agnes, and Beatrix, and their issue, this lordship was settled, Alice and Agatha having their shares of the inheritance in Searning and Dillington.

OLDHALL'S MANOR. Alianore, the first sister and coheiress, married, and had Joan, her first daughter and coheiress, married to Mr. Timworth; and Agnes, second sister, married to Edmund Swathing; Alice, second sister and coheiress, married to sir Edmund Oldhall, knt. father of sir William Oldhall, who presented to this church in 1446.

In the 23d of Henry VI. John Timworth, of Timworth, in Lincolnshire, conveyed his right in this manor, &c. and the advowson, to sir William, then held of the Duchy of Lancaster.

After the 8th year of Henry VIII. it came to Walter Gorges, esq. of Wroxhall, in Somersetshire, son of sir Theobald Gorges, by the marriage of Mary, daughter and heiress of sir William Oldhall, by Mary, his wife, daughter of William lord Willoughby, of Eresby.

In the 15th of Henry VII. sir Edmund Gorges, knt. and Edward, his son, conveyed it to Humphry Coninsby, esq. serjeant at law, Thomas Frowick, &c.

In the 7th of Henry VIII. September 6, sir William Capel, knt. died seised of it, with the advowson of the church. In this family it remains, the right honorable

honorable William Anne Holles Capel, earl of Essex, being the present lord.

SWATHING'S MANOR. Agnes, third sister and coheirefs of Jeffrey de Fransham, married Edmund de Swathing, and had William de Swathing, whose son, Edmund, having a daughter and heirefs, Elizabeth, brought this part, or share, by marriage, to Henry Sharington.

Thomas Sharington, esq. of Cranworth, settled it on trustees, by his will, dated October 15, 1519, till his debts, &c. were paid, then to come to his son, William, and his heirs; but the said William conveyed it with his right in the advowson to Robert Hogan, esq. in the 23d of Henry VIII. but Edward Myne, of Fransham *Parva*, gave by his will, dated March 21, 1542, to Nicholas, his son, his part of the manor of Fransham *Magna*, which he bought of Thomas Sharington, and his son, William Sharington, esq.

CURD'S, or CRUDD'S-HALL MANOR. Beatrix, the fourth sister and coheirefs, married ———— Person-hall, who held her third part, or share, of this manor in 1446; and in the 34th of Henry VI. the trustees for this manor remitted all their right in the lands, tenements, and services, which they lately had of the demise of sir Roger Harlick, Nicholas Bokking, with John Crudd.

John Crudd, lord of it, was buried in this church in 1489, father, as we imagine, of Nicholas Curdede, of *Mekye-Fransham*, as he styles himself in his will, in 1505, and desires to be buried in the church, and bequeaths to Catherine, his wife, his *trede*, part of the manor of Fransham.

In

In the 10th of Henry VIII. John Crudd conveyed to Robert Blagge, one of the barons of the Exchequer, this manor, with other lands, &c. in Fransham *Magna* and *Parva*, Dunham *Parva*, Scarning, Beeston, &c. and the advowson of this church.

The Crudds descend probably from Jeffrey de Crudd, of Rougham, who was living in the time of Henry III.

In the reign of Charles I. Isaac Harfnet, of Colchester, in Essex, esq. (brother to Samuel archbishop of York) was lord: he had Samuel, his son, who was sole executor to the archbishop; and married Alianor, daughter of Thomas Cotton, esq. of Starston, in Earsham hundred, by whom he had several children, Samuel, who was a lunatic, and five daughters; Barbara, the eldest, married Edward Fisher, gent. of Norfolk; Eleanor, the second, William Marsham, of Stratton-Strawles, and afterwards sir Robert Drury, bart. of Riddlefworth, who was killed in the great hurricane in 1703, dying without issue, &c. This Samuel lived at Crudd's-hall.

John Beckham, gent. was lord of it, and dying unmarried, it was sold according to his will to William Nelson, gent. of Dunham *Parva*.

The lordship of Gressenhall extended into this village, as did the lordship of Swanton Morley. The tithes were 5l. 10s. Deducted 10s.

In 1659 the feoffees of the lands belonging to the town of Neston, lying here, were charged in militia rate at 40l. per ann. The temporalities of the priory of Pentney in 1428 were taxed at 8s. In the 6th of Elizabeth,

Elizabeth these lands were granted, September 18, to William Gryce, and Anthony Forster.

The temporalities of Westacre priory were 7s.—of Wendling-abbey 22s.—of Creak abbey 10d.—of Castle Acre priory 15s. per ann.

The church, which stands half a mile north of the turnpike road, and has a small spire covered with lead on its tower, is dedicated to All Saints. The ancient value was sixteen marks; the present value is 7l. 15s. 9d. ob. and pays first-fruits and tenths.

In 1723 the Rev. Daniel Burslem was presented to this rectory by the earl of Essex; and in 1777 Thomas Topping, clerk, was licensed his curate.

At the east end of the south aisle is an ancient chapel, at the entrance lies a large grey marble-stone, whereon is the portraiture of a person armed cap-à-pee; his hands conjoined and elevated, as at prayers, within a curious arch, or canopy-work, of brass, inlaid in the stone; round the verge of it runs a fillet of brass, thus inscribed:—*Hic jacet Galsfridus Fransham, armiger, de Fransham, qui obiit in festo Jeronimi doctoris, anno Dni. Millo. ccccxihi, cuj; &c.*—On brass shields are his arms.

On a grave-stone in the nave, the portraitures of a man and his wife, in their winding sheets, and on a plate,—*Orate p. a' i' ab; Johs. Crudd, et Elizab. uxor. sue, qui obiit xvii die Septemb. anno Dni. mcccclxxxix, quor; a' i' ab; &c.*

Just under the arch of the steeple lies also a stone, with the portraiture of a woman in brass, in a winding

ing sheet, and on a plate,—*Orate p. a'i'a. Ceciliae, uxor Johs. Legge, - - - - -*.

In Rougham, and in this town, there was also another lordship, besides that before-mentioned, belonging to the earl Warren, valued before the survey at 50s. per ann. then at 60s.

All Fransham is said to be nine furlongs long, and eight broad, and paid 10d. gelt, and Wimerus held it, who was lord of Greffenhall, and it came afterwards to the Stuteviles; Robert de Stuteville in the 3d of Edward I. claimed free-warren here, and passed from him to the Foliots, lords of Greffenhall, and others.

The village of Great Fransham lies on the road from East Dereham, four miles, to Swaffham eight. Mr. Edward Case, who carries on a considerable tannery here, has built a very handsome house by the road, fronting the green, which has (and not improperly) been named Hyde-park-corner.

FRANSHAM *Parva*, or LITTLE FRANSHAM. This was at the survey the lordship of Ralph de Tony, and was held under Harold, afterwards king of England, in king Edward's days, and was valued with Necton. Eudo, son of Clema, had one carucate of land of those three here delivered to him, which he held for life, afterwards Ralph de Beaufoe's, but Tony was in possession of it at the survey, belonging to this capital manor of Necton, to which it appertained in the Confessor's time.

Ralph de Tony claimed free-warren in his demesne lands in the 3d of Edward I. and in the 33d of that king John le Strange held it of Robert de Tony by the

the service of 2s. six quarters of barley, and four quarters of oats, valued at 23s. per ann.

In the 25th of Edward III. sir Peter le Strange held it of the Beauchamps, earls of Warwick, heirs to the Tonys; and in the 1st of Richard II. he had a grant of a weekly market on Thursday, and a fair every year on the eve, and the day of St. Botolph. Sir Peter was an eminent soldier; his will was made in France, at St. Maloes, in 1378, and Emma, his lady, had a grant thereby of all his lands for life, and after to be sold, and the money to be disposed of for his soul.

From the family of the Beauchamps, who were the capital lords, it came by marriage to Richard Nevile, earl of Warwick, and on his attainder to the crown; it was granted by Henry VIII. to sir Thomas Boleyn, of Blickling, who presented to the church in 1521, and again in 1535, being then earl of Wiltshire, and father to Anna Boleyn, the queen; but after the death of this earl it was possessed by Francis Southwell.

In 1559 George Mynne, gent. presented in his own right; and in 1592 Richard Beckham was lord, and presented in 1610.

Thomas Hogan, esq. was lord in 1710, and his son, Thomas, was lord in 1764, and a lunatic; but the patronage is sold from the manor, Charles Barnwell, esq. of Mileham, being the present patron.

CANON'S MANOR. Westacre priory, founded by the Tonys, held this of the gift of that family; their temporalities here were valued in 1428 at 2l. 7d. on the general dissolution it was granted in the 34th of Henry VIII. to Richard Andrews, and Leonard Chamberlain,

Chamberlain. Edward Mynn in the 38th of the said reign died possessed of it; and about 1600 Edward Mynn, being the queen's ward, it was during his minority in the hands of a Mr. Clarke.

Here was also another lordship in this town, called by the name of Kirkham and Wilcox, and was part of the earl Warren's fee, or manor, in Fransham *Magna*, which extended here. Robert de St Thomas, by deed without date, gave to the monks of Castle Acre the homage and service of Roger de Fransham *Parva*, &c.

In the 10th of Henry VI. John Alderford conveyed to sir William Oldhall, knt. the manor of Kirkham and Wilcox, in Fransham *Parva*, with other lands, &c. on his paying an annuity of 12l. per ann. for the life of Alice, wife of John.

Walter Gorges, esq. held this in right of his wife, daughter and heiress of sir William Oldhall, and his son, Edmund, in the time of Edward IV. and passed with Fransham *Magna*.

The temporalities of Fakenham priory in 1428 were valued at 13s. 10d. Henry VIII. granted June 28, in his 36th year, this to William Berkley. The temporalities of Wendling abbey 5s. 7d. ob. and those of Thetford canons here at 6d. The tenths of the town were 3l. 8s. Deduct 4s.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a rectory, anciently valued at fourteen marks; the present value is 6l. 8s. 3d. ob. and pays no first-fruits or tenths.

In 1743 the Rev. Charles Barnwell was presented by Gibson Neal, esq. and in 1774 Charles Barnwell, esq. of Mileham, presented the Rev. Richard Drake, of Wymondham, to this rectory.

The village of Little Franhams lies on the turnpike road between Norwich and Lynn-Regis, being six miles from East Dereham, and six from Swaffham. The church, which stands north of the road, has no tower; and Hammond Alpe, esq. now commanding a company in the East Norfolk regiment, has a seat here: his father, the late Hammond Alpe, esq. served the office of high sheriff of Norfolk in 1758.

GATELY, or GATELEE, wrote in Doomsday-book Gatelea, was in the time of king Edward the lordship of Bund, a thane, or free-man, and granted by the Conqueror to Hugh de Montfort, in Bund's time; it was valued at 4l. per ann. was half a leuca long and broad, and paid 10d. gelt, and Ralph, a Norman lord, and chief justiciary of England, held it under Hugh.

Ralph, who held under Hugh de Montfort, the capital lord, was ancestor of the family of de Gately, lords of this village. Godfrey de Lifewys, who lived in the reign of Henry II. sold lands in this town to Herlewyn de Gately, and Thomas, son of Herlewyn de Gately, by deed without date, gave to the church of the Holy Trinity of Norwich, all his land which he held in *capite* of Robert Scales, as well by knight's service as in soccage, by the fifth part of a fee, paying 2s. ward per ann. to Dover-castle, and 14d. for soccage, which sir Ralph de Gately, knt. afterwards confirmed.

In the 36th of Henry III. sir Ralph de Gately held this lordship in *capite*, with the advowson of the church of the castle of Dover, by the service of two knights fees, and that Ralph was his son and heir, who then paid 10l. relief for all the lands he held in *capite*; he was also a knight, and sold in the 44th of Henry III. to sir Richard de la Rokele, two parts of this manor, held by two fees, and the reversion of the third part on the decease of Agnes, widow of sir Ralph, his father; but by an inquisition taken in the 5th of Edward I. we find that sir Richard bought it of sir Edmund de Gately.

Sir Richard de la Rokele was lord of Colkirk also, and Maud, the heiress of this family, brought both these lordships by marriage, in the reign of Edward I. to sir Roger Atte-Ash, and so they descended to the Baynards, the Thorpes, Tilney, Bouchier, Knevet, Hare, &c. and Richard Warner, esq. of North Elmham, died lord in 1757.

When Robert Baynard died seised of it in the 4th of Edward III. it was then held of Isabel, queen dowager of England, as of her manor of Hawley, in Suffolk, by the service of two knights fees, and paying 20s. per ann. castle-guard to Dover. In the 1st of Henry VII. this manor and lands alone were farmed at 10l. per ann.

William de Lifewy's manor of South Rainham, held of the honor of Hawley, also extended into this town, which he gave to the monks of Castle Acre, in the reign of Henry II. and Godfrey de Lifewys granted to Herlewyn de Gately, for two marks, all the land, late Acelnod's, in Gately, of his fee.

This

This fee came afterwards to the Scales; Robert, son of sir Robert de Scales, held it in 1280, and then conveyed a messuage, &c. here, in pure alms, to the prior, &c. of Norwich, who received him into all the benefits of his church; and their temporalities here in 1428 were valued at 3l. 12s. 4d. per ann. The family of Scales held also lands in the 6th of Edward III. by knights service.

William de Beaufoe, bishop of Thetford, had in his own right and inheritance in this town a small part of a fee, held under him by a free-man, viz. six acres, valued at 6d. per ann. but the soc was in Mileham. This was afterwards given by bishop Beaufoe to the fee, for ever, and so became a part of the manor of Colkirk, which belonged also to this bishopric.

Peter de Valoins had also a small fee in this town, held under him by Ralph, valued in all at 20s. This Ralph was ancestor of the family of de Gately, and his posterity enjoying it, it was united to his capital lordship. It appears that trustees settled this manor on Lucia, daughter and heiress of sir Roger Atte-Alhe, (married to Robert Baynard) in the reign of Edward II. from whom it came to the Thorpes, &c.

In ancient writings we find a place, called Colynesnapp, or Tollesnape, said to be in this parish.

The tenths of the town were 2l. 13s. 4d.—Deduct 3s. 4d.—Rem. 2l. 10s.—The temporalities of Peterston priory in 1428, 2s.—Langley abbey 4s.—West-acre priory 11s.—Castle Acre 22s.

Sir Ralph de Gately, knt. granted, as lord and patron, to the abbot of St. Mary de Pratis, of Creak, several parcels of land, with the advowson of the
E church

church of St. Helen's, of Gately, pope Alexander granting licence to appropriate it to the said abbey, the bishop of Norwich confirmed it, and ordained a vicarage to consist in the following things:—all the altarage, tithe hay, heath, or turbary, the tithes arising from the little closes belonging to the houses, six acres of arable land, a messuage, and eight perches in length and breadth, in Serjeant's Croft; the abbot and convent to have all the rest of the profits as rectors, and they to sustain all episcopal and archidiaconal expences, but all extraordinary charges to be sustained by the religious, and the vicar, according to proportion; the abbot and convent to have the presentation of the vicarage; dated at Thornage, the ides of February, 1264, in the 7th year of his pontificate.

The prior of Castle Acre released to Thomas the abbot of Creak 6s. 8d. rent per ann. for two parts of the tithes of the land here, called Tollesnape, &c. There being a controversy between the abbot and the rector of Colkirk, for tithes of several parcels of land in Shortland, Longland, Wyfwong, &c. some were adjudged to the rector, and some to the abbot, in 1315; the 6s. 8d. before released was due for tithe of land given dy Godfrey be Lifewys, in 1324.

The appropriated rectory was valued at twenty-six marks, the vicarage at six marks, and the vicarage now at 3l. 2s. 7d. At the dissolution of Creak abbey it came to the crown, (which was before the general dissolution of religious houses) in the 22d year of Henry VII. who then gave the abbey, with all its possessions, to his mother, the countess of Richmond, who in the following year granted the same to Christ College, in Cambridge, then founded by her.

In 1751 the Rev. Charles Dix was presented to this vicarage by the master and fellows of Christ College, Cambridge; and in 1777 Mr. Edward Bunting was licensed curate.

The vicar is discharged of first-fruits and tenths. In the church was the guild of St. Helen, to whom the church was dedicated.

Gat gives name to Gatewick, and Gat, in Suffex, Gatton, in Surry, on the river Gat.

Robert Sharrock, esq. resides at his seat in this town, which is prettily situated at the north-west end of Elmham common. The country hereabouts is finely wooded.

GODWICK, so called, says Parkin, from its scite by a good water, or stream, as Godeston, and Godeftow, was the lordship of Ralph de Tony at the survey, held by a free-man in the reign of king Edward the Confessor, who had land, &c. and was valued in Necton, Ralph's capital manor; it was six furlongs long, and four broad, and paid 6d. ob. gelt: this land went with Necton, but did not lie in it, and Roger Bigot claimed it of the gift of the king, and by the delivery of it.

Ralph de Tony on the foundation of the abbey of Westacre gave this lordship to it, with the patronage of the church; and in the 9th of Edward II. the prior was lord, and so it remained till the general dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. who granted both the manor and patronage of the church to sir Thomas le Strange, of Hunstanton, December 4, in his 32d year, being held by the twentieth part of a fee.

In the 3d of Elizabeth Henry Cancellor was lord of it, with twelve messuages in this village, Tittleshall, Whissonset, and Pottesley, it being conveyed to Robert Cancellor from Nicholas le Strange, in the 3d and 4th of Philip and Mary; and in the 16th of Elizabeth licence was granted to Henry Cancellor to alien the manor and advowson to John Drury, esq. called Norfolk Drury. (a younger son of John Drury, of Rougham, in Suffolk) who married Eleanor, daughter of Thomas Sydney, of Walsingham, by whom he had Robert Drury, esq. of Docking, who died in 1624. The Drurys sold it to sir Edward Coke, the judge, whose immediate heir, the right honorable the earl of Leicester, died lord, August 20, 1759.

In this town is the old seat of sir Edward Coke, and lately inhabited by Ralph Cauldwell, esq. of Hilborough.

The temporalities of Westacre priory in 1428 were valued (in lands, rent, a mill, &c.) at 3l. 1s. 11d. ob.—of Normansburgh priory at 3s.—Walsingham priory 2s. per ann.—The tenths of the town were 24s.—Deduct 6s. 8d.—Remains 17s. 4d.

In a book, called Norwich Domsday, wrote about the beginning of the time of Edward I. this town is called Godwick, *alias* Hendewyck, *hen* expressing likely the name of the stream, or rivulet, of this wick, as Henstead hundred, &c. the church was then valued at 100s. and was in the patronage of Westacre priory; the present value is 11. 10s. 10d. and is discharged.

On December 15, 1630, this church was consolidated with that of Tittleshall by the bishop of Norwich

wich, then at Ludham, fir Edward Coke, the patron of both churches, consenting.

In 1742 the Rev. William Hofte was presented to the united rectory by the earl of Leiceſter, then lord Lovell.

There is nothing remaining of the old church but part of the ſteeple.

GRESSENHALL, or GRESSENHALE, was in king Edward's time the lordſhip of Toke, a free-man, (a Saxon thane) who had many lordſhips in this county; after him Fedric poſſeſſed it; but at the ſurvey it was one of the lordſhips of William earl Warren, and Scarning was a beruite, or lordſhip, depending on this.

The town ſeems to take its name as lying on watry meadows, by a river, probably called in ancient days the Ger, or Yar; *ing*, ſignifying meadows, and *hale*, not a hall, but a moiſt place, as Hales-worth, and Aleſham; we find it wrote Garſighnehael in a deed without date.

It was valued at the ſurvey, together with its beruite, Scarning, at 4l. and with that was ſeven furlongs long, four broad, and paid 7d. ob. gelt, and Wimer held the whole.

William earl Warren aforeſaid granted this to Wimer, his *daſiſer*, with the manors of Kempſtone, Dunham *Magna*, Eaſt Lexham, &c. inſomuch that it was accounted and called the honor of Greſſenhall; and he gave to the monks of Caſtle Acre the churches of the aforeſaid towns, with the tithes of his demefnes therein.

William, grandson of Wimer, assumed the name of Gressenhall, and left several sons; Roger, his eldest, succeeded him, and left William de Gressenhall, his son and heir.

This William had an only daughter, Isabel, who married, first, Beringer de Gressi, and afterwards William de Huntingfield*; and Osmund de Stuteville, her third husband, was lord of this town in her right.

In the 17th of king John he had a grant of the lands of William de Maundevile in this county, during pleasure, and was a younger son of Robert de Stuteville, by Eneburga, his wife, and grandson of Robert de Stuteville, who came into England with the Conqueror, were both of them barons of this realm, and had many lordships in Yorkshire, &c.

Osmund died at Joppa, in the Holy Land, and left two sons, Roger, and William, the eldest, to whom this lordship was assigned; he confirmed the donations of all his ancestors to the aforesaid monks, in their advowsons, tithes, fisheries, mills, excepting to himself the advowson of the churches of St. Peter and St. Paul, of Weasenhams-Thorp, before the justices at Westminster, in the Quindeens of St. Hilary, in the 41st of Henry III.

In the 13th of Henry III, he paid forty marks for twenty-three knights fees; and in the 15th, in consideration of two palfreys, and 20s. in silver, obtained pardon for marrying Margaret, daughter and heiress of sir Hugh de Say, of Ricard's-castle, in Herefordshire,
relict

* William de Huntingfield, and Isabel, his wife, were living in the 6th year of Richard I.

relict of Robert Mortimer, without licence. In the 17th of the said king he was one of the barons of the marches, and delivered up Osmund, his son, as an hostage for his fidelity. In the 26th year he gave a fine of fifteen marks to be exempted from going into Gascoigne; and in the 43d of the said king died seised of many lordships, in right of Margaret, his wife.

He was succeeded by Robert de Stuteville, his son and heir, who standing firm to Henry III. in his war with the barons, was taken by Henry de Montfort, and imprisoned, and obliged to sell his manor of Withersfield, in Suffolk, to Giles Argenton, one of their party, to redeem himself, which was restored to him (after the defeat of the barons) in the 59th of that king's reign.

Robert married Joan, daughter and heiress of William Talbot, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire, and died seised of this town, held of earl Warren by two knights-fee, in the 1st year of Edward I. viz. a capital messuage, a water-mill, a wind-mill, 200 acres of pasture, a carr, &c. all valued at 19l. 3s. 4d. and was a great benefactor to the abbey of Wendling, leaving Margery, his sister and heiress, married to sir Richard Foliot, who dying in the 6th of Edward I. left a son and heir, Jordan, lord of this town, with its members. In the 14th of that king he claimed free-warren, the assize of bread and beer of his tenants, frank-pledge, by view of the king's bailiff, a weekly market on Monday, and a fair on the vigil, the day, and day after St. Michael.

In the 27th of Edward I. Jordan covenants with Edmund Foliot "to find the said Edmund provision and cloathing, viz. one robe at Christmas, with two

supertunics, well lined, and a saddle, (*fellam*) agreeable to that of Jordan, and to maintain one esquire, and three grooms, of the said Edmund, in provision, amongst those of Jordan, together with the palfrey, and sumpter horse of Edmund, as the palfrey and sumpter horse of Jordan, together with the esquire of Edmund, like as the esquire of Jordan, for the life of Edmund."

In the said year Jordan, then a knight, died seised of this manor, &c. doing suit and service to Castle Acre court every three weeks. There was then a park in this lordship, and a wood, called Old-hall carr.

In the year after his death Margery, his widow, was impleaded by the earl Warren to deliver to him Richard, her son and heir, by Jordan, who held this and other lordships of him, by homage, fealty, and the service of nine knights fees and an half. She pleads that she only kept him to nurse, being young; and in the 29th of the said king Ralph de Monthermer, earl of Gloucester, impleaded her on the same account, which shews the hardships that attended families on these occasions, when she replied that she had delivered him into court, and the court committed him to sir Roger Bilney, knight, who re-delivered him to his mother, during the pleasure of the court. She died in the 3d year of Edward III. and was buried before the great altar in the presbytery of Wendling abbey, on the north side, being styled advocate, or patroness thereof.

Sir Richard Foliot, son of sir Jordan, dying without issue in the 4th of Edward III. his two sisters, Margery, married to sir Hugh de Hastings, and Margaret, to sir John Camois, were his heiresses.

In the 4th of Edward III. sir John de Camois released to sir Hugh Hastings this lordship, with all the right, and that of Elsing, with the chapel of Rougholm, and the advowson of Wendling abbey. Sir Hugh was son of sir John de Hastings, lord Abergavenny, by Isabel, his second lady, daughter of Hugh le Despencer, earl of Winchester. He built the church of Elsing, and was there buried in 1347, as was his lady, in 1349.

Sir Hugh Hastings, his son, was summoned to parliament as a baron in the 16th of Edward III. and in his 20th year styled the king's cousin, constituted his lieutenant in Flanders, and served in the wars both in France and Spain.

Sir Hugh Hastings was his son and heir, and married Ann, daughter of Edward lord Spencer, and died in Spain, on his pilgrimage to Jerusalem, in 1370; his lady afterwards married lord Morley.

Sir Hugh Hastings, the fourth of that name, was his son and heir, and married a daughter of sir William Blount; he died at Calais, on the marriage of Richard II. to Isabel, daughter of the king of France, in 1395, without issue, and his brother, Edward, aged 14, then the king's ward, succeeded him. He was afterwards a knight, and styled himself lord Hastings and Stuteville, and engaged with Reginald lord Grey, of Ruthyn, for the right of the lands, arms, and honors, of the Hastings, earls of Pembroke, in a long suit, which is said to have so much reduced him, (though possessed of great estates) that he died at London, in the Fleet.

Dugdale says he was condemned in 970l. &c. costs on this suit, and imprisoned on that account

sixteen years, but mentions not the time of his death; it was before the year 1441, in which year John Windham, esq. presented to the church of Brisley, in right of Margery, late wife of Edward lord Hastings; and it appears that in 1435, September 12, the said lord presented to that church. Sir Hugh married Margery aforesaid, daughter of sir John Denham, knight, by whom he had sir John Hastings, whose lady was Ann, daughter of John lord Morley.

Sir Hugh was their son and heir, who presented to this church as lord and patron in 1485, and by Ann, daughter of sir William Gascoigne, had several children; John, sir George Hastings, and sir Brian Hastings, and six daughters. This sir Hugh died in the 4th of Henry VII. and John was his son and heir, and being a knight, presented to the church of Gressenhall in 1492, and 1503, and died in the 20th of Henry VII. without issue, holding this lordship, and that of Elling, &c. of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Sir George Hastings, his brother, was his heir, and presented to this church in 1504; he married Ann, daughter and heiress of Alexander Brabazon, and died June 11, in the 3d of Henry VIII.

John, the eldest son of sir George, married Catherine, daughter and one of the heiresses of Robert le Strange, esq. and she, as his widow, presented to the church of Gressenhall in 1519, holding this lordship in dower.

Hugh Hastings, his brother and heir, presented to the church of Brisley in 1537. and in 1540 to this church, then a knight, and died before the 13th of November,

November, 1556, when Catherine Hastings, widow of sir Hugh, presented to the church of Stanfield.

John Hastings, esq. was son and heir of sir Hugh, and dying without issue in the 35th of Henry VIII. left two sisters and coheiresses; Ann, the eldest, married to William Browne, esq. second son to sir Anthony Browne, master of the horse to Henry VIII. and knight of the garter, who had with her the lordships of Elsing and Weasenharn; and Elizabeth, married to Hamon le Strange, esq. son and heir to sir Nicholas, of Hunstanton, who had this lordship, &c. assigned to him, and he died seised of it in the 22d of Elizabeth, October 7, 1580.

In this honorable family (of which a particular account is given in Hunstanton) it remained, that truly courteous and hospitable baronet, sir Henry le Strange, dying lord, September 9, 1760, and his relict, lady le Strange, now enjoys this estate, and resides at the hall.

By a pleading in the 22d of Elizabeth it appears that there were two sokens, the north and south; and the custom was, that an heir, or tenant, to any copyhold land in one alone of these paid, on admittance, 5s. fine only; if in both, then 10s. and if a copyholder did not sell all his land, then the fine to be 2s. per acre, and that they might sell their timber.

HEREFORD MANOR was a part of the capital manor belonging to a branch of the family of de Gressenhall, descended from Wimerus *Dapifer*. In 1277 Thomas de Hereford was lord of this manor.

In the 3d of Henry IV. Alan Rouse, and Joan, his wife, granted to William Clerk the said lordship,

ship, who conveyed it to John de Hoo in the said reign.

John Ferrou, of Greffenhall, sen. died in 1483, and was buried in the church-yard of St. Mary of Greffenhall; he had this manor in Greffenhall, Scarning, and Wendling. and willed that the villages of Stanfield, Brisley, Horningtoft, and Bilney, having amongst them sixteen cows, are for ever to exonerate by their profits, as far as they can, 60s. the leet-fee of the North Soken, annually paid to the lord of the manor of Greffenhall, and his heirs, by his tenants in the aforesaid villages, or elsewhere.

John Ferrou occurs lord in the 12th of Elizabeth; and in 1637 Robert Halcot, who in the said year paid a quit-rent of 15s. per ann. for it to the lord of Greffenhall.

John le Strange held his first court in May, 1682; William Tinker, gent. his in October, 1701; William Pretheroe, gent. in March, 1708; and the Rev. William Pretheroe, his son, rector of East Barsham, is the present lord.

St. NICHOLAS'S CHAPEL was founded in a place called Rougholm, in Greffenhall, by William de Stuteville, lord of the town, in the reign of Henry III. In his 34th year a fine was levied between William de Ling, chaplain of it, and William de Stuteville aforesaid, who granted the rent of four marks per ann. and seven acres of land here, in Scarning and Braddenham, to the chaplain, and his successors, in free-alms, to sustain a chaplain therein, to pray for his soul, his ancestors, and his heirs, to be presented by him and his heirs, the four marks to be received from his tenants, and if the chaplain should be unfit to celebrate

brate, or the chapel vacant for forty days, the diocesan was then to present another. It was dissolved by Edward VI. who granted it July 23, in his 4th year, to sir Nicholas le Strange, knt. with all its messuages and lands here, &c. and the said sir Nicholas had licence to alienate the manor of Rougholm, with its appurtenances, to William Warner, and his heirs, in the 1st and 2d of Philip and Mary; the scite of it was by Greffenhall-mill, and valued at 12l. and 5d. per ann. It was a long narrow building, with a north and south transept, and a chancel, which, with the north transept, is in ruins, the rest still standing, and now an house; and a little way south of it, where the brethren lived, there stood a house, now an oser ground.

Here is an annual fair kept on St. Nicholas the bishop's day, December 6.

The master, or custos, of the chapel of St. Nicholas had a pension of 4l. 16s per ann. paid him from the crown in 1503.

The common seal of this house, or college, was the effigy of St. Nicholas, in his pontificals.

The church of Greffenhall is a large pile, built in a cathedral manner, with a north and south transept, and a tower in the middle, as you enter the chancel, which tower decaying, licence was granted January 28, 1698, to take down the spire on the top of it. This tower had been repaired in 1491 by John Ferrour; and on the battlements was an inscription to that purpose.

The north transept is called Ferrour's chantry, or chapel, and that on the south Hasling's chapel, both covered

covered with lead, as the nave, the north and south ailes, with the south porch, are, and the chancel; in the tower are five bells.

The chancel is very neat, being beautified at the cost of the late rector, Mr. Hugh Hare, and is seated round, the communion table railed in, and has a covering of red silk, with a deep silver lace, and a rich piece of gold brocade, with a large cross of silk worked thereon, &c. being the gift of his wife.

In the wall of the chancel, by the table, is a brass plate, with——a chevron between three estolls, or escallops;—*Johannes Estmond, generosus, natus in parochia de Chardstock, comitat. Dorset. olim collegij novi apud Oxon socius, juris civilis doctor, et unus advocatorum curiæ de arcubus London, nuper ecclesiæ de Saham Tony comitat. Norf. rector. In hoc vica mortuus 17 Octob. anno Dni. 1604, ætat. suæ 56, hic jacet sepultus*
- - *Sarah Estmond, conjux, mæstissima posuit.*

On a brass plate on the south wall,—*Sarah Estmond, uxor. primo Thomæ Steward, generosi, deinde Johs. Estmond, legum doct. quos vivens hic sepultos curavit ex Thoma suscepit liberos superstites 4, filios Thomæ et Edmundi filias Sarah, et Jana ipsa vero e vivis excessit 14 die Octob. anno Dni. 1609, ætatis suæ 56.*

On a stone,—*Exuvie Susannæ le Strange, 1679.*

Robert Halcot, of Gressenhall, yeoman, died November 2, 1640.

Hic jacet Ann pia (Samuelis Harsnet, armig. filia) uxor amantissima Rogeri le Strange, generosi, quæ obt. 5 Nov. ætat. suæ 37, anno 1677;—with the arms of le Strange impaling Harsnet,

Sir

Sir Nicholas le Strange, bart. son of sir Nicholas le Strange, and Dame Mary, his wife, born on the 2d of December, 1661, married to Anna, daughter of Sir Thomas Wodehouse; and Dame Ann, his wife, on the 2d day of December, 1686, died at Gressenhall on the 18th day of December, 1724.

On a monument of white marble in the chancel, le Strange impaling Wodehouse;—*Dame Ann, reliet of Sir Nicholas le Strange, baronet, only daughter of Sir Thomas Wodehouse, of Kimberley, knight, and of Dame Ann, second daughter and coheirefs of Sir William Armine, of Osgodby, in Lincolnshire, born the 2d of February, 1668, died at Gressenhall the 10th of April, 1727, and lies interred by her husband.*

In Hastling's chantry, on the pavement, lies a large marble-stone, disrobed of its effigies, brass shields, and ornaments; on a brass plate remaining,

*Nobilitas gen'is quid p'dest, o'ia solvit,
Mors que sub lapide ho. p'cerum duo corpora volvit;
Morib; insigni comitu de sanguine natus,
Pembrochie jacet hic John Haslyng pulv'e strat;
Uxor et Anna sibi que sanguine filia scitur
De Morley, d no moriens p. eum sepelitur.
Quisquis et ista legas fusa prece siste, rogatus,
Ut Deus amborum velit indulgere reatus.
Ann. erat Christi poliando co'gru; isti
Mill. quadringen; uno plus septuagenus.*

A stone,—*In memory of Rachel, daughter of Richard Vesy, of Readwell, in Suffolk, esq. and wife of Edward Davy, of this town, who died September 7, 1725.*

On the gallery at the west end of the church,—
Robert Halcot, the owner of Harephares, gave this gal-
lery, 1635.

The church is dedicated to the assumption of the
 blessed Virgin, and was anciently valued at eighteen
 marks. The present value of this rectory is 15l.
 12s. 5d. ob.

The monks of Castle Acre had two portions of
 tithe, one of 24s. per ann. another of 12s.—Tem-
 poralities in 1428 of Castle Acre, 2s. 8d.—of Wend-
 ling abbey, 4s. 1d.—of Peterston priory, 18d. per
 annum.

John Ferroure before-mentioned was steward of this
 manor, and gave by will, in 1483, to this township,
 a messuage, called Noppys, with twenty acres of
 land, to keep his anniversary, and to pay 20s. (as it
 is said) per ann. to the lord of Greffenhall, to pay
 the leet.

On the grave-stone of sir John Hastings, in the
 chapel of Hastings, there was these following verses,
 which began the epitaph:

*Hic stratus, si quo sit natus sanguine, quæris ;
 A proavo genitum noscas cuj nupserat heres
 Pembrochie comitum Vollenfis origine nata.
 Huic comites plures donec crudelia fata
 Extulerant pestem (Woodstock) te convoco testem
 Qui nece sub mæsta cecidit dum frangitur hasta
 Hugo successit miles sibi qui sociavit
 Lordani Foliot natam, de qua generavit
 Hugonem sed huic Everingham nata potentis
 Nupsit, et Hugonis fit mater ad arma valentis*

Nata

*Nata cuj d'ni Spencer tedis generavit.
Edwardum, cuj John Dinham natam sociavit.
E quibus hoc tumultu stratus sit origo Johannes
Cuj requies detur cunctis viventibus annis
Hugo, Roberte, quibus Edmundus frater habetur
Poscatis precibus celis requiescere detur.*

In 1743 the Rev. Benjamin Crofts was presented to the rectory of Greffenhall, *alias* Greffinghall, by the late sir Thomas le Strange, bart. and in 1776 Edward Roger North was licensed curate.

The village of Greffenhall is situated by the road from East Dereham to Litcham. The church stands on an eminence, at the north end of the avenue leading from the hall, at present inhabited by lady le Strange, who inherits that hospitality and benevolent disposition so conspicuous in the family for many centuries. This lady is the last of the name who will own this valuable estate; for, on her decease, it reverts to the Stylemans, of Snettisham, by marriage.

HOE, or How, is an hamlet belonging to the parish of East Dereham, and with it belonged to the abbey of Ely, and was held by Ralph, son of Ivo, of the abbot, and afterwards of the king, as appears from the book of Doomsday:—Hou was valued in Dereham.

The soc belonged to the king's manor of Mileham, with two socmen, who held lands, &c. valued at 4s. per ann. The abbot had the protection and the right of foldage.

This lordship was held by the Walpoles of the see of Ely. In the 3d of Edward I. the bishop of Ely
F claimed

claimed the affize of bread and beer, foc, fac, thol, and them, infantghef, view of frank-pledge, and return of writs, as belonging to his manor of East Dereham.

In the see it remained till in the reign of queen Elizabeth it was with other lands of that see granted to the crown.

Hamon le Strange, esq. died seised of the manor of Heymer, in Hoe, Oct. 7, in the 22d of Elizabeth, held of the bishop of Ely by fealty, and 12d. rent; and Nicholas le Strange held it in the 25th of the said queen.

James I. in his 7th year, September 30, granted to Edward Ferrers, and Francis Philips, a water-mill, with the house in Hoe, and an osier ground adjoining, containing one rood, and a fishery, beginning at the head of the mill, and extending itself near to Chapel-mill, being part of the manor of East Dereham, and of the possessions of the see of Ely, of the rent of 4l. per annum.

Sir Walter de Hoe, knight, gave lands in Hoe to the monks of Castle Acre.

Mr. Alexander de Walpole also held of earl Warren the manor of Hereford-hall, in Gressenhall, that extended here; and John de Hoe held the fourth part of a fee in the 18th of Henry III. of William de Stuteville. Thomas de Hereford was lord in 1277; and Warin de Hereford had frank-pledge, affize of bread and beer, &c. in the 15th of Edward I. After this Hereford-hall was held by the Ferrers, &c.

In 1661 Thomas Utber, esq. lord of Hoe, of the Middle Temple, London, sold to Matthew Helcot, tanner, of Litcham, 160 acres of land, called East-field-closes; and in 1668 the manor of Hoe, and Hereford, was possessed by William Frith, esq. of Horn-church, in Essex, who sold them to alderman Farrington, of London.

In the 7th of James I. Thomas Gooch held lands in Hoe, in *capite*; and in 1659 Thomas Gooch, gent. was taxed at 125l. per ann. in the militia rate for his estate.

To this hamlet belongs a chapel, with a nave, or body, a north and south aisle, and a chancel, covered with lead, with a square tower and three bells, and the cure is served by the vicar of East Dereham.

In the middle aisle, before the pulpit, a grave-stone,
—Willi. Skarlet q; obijt xx die Maij, anno Domini
MCCCCLXXXIIII.

Another,—Johs. Dunha, de Hoo, gentilema, obijt
xxii die November. anno Dni. MCCCCLXVII.

In the north aisle, at the east end, was a chapel; in the window the arms of Morley; also the figures of a person lying as dead on an altar-tomb, and five priests as praying by him, in a north window: in the east window of the said aisle is a representation of the crucifixion; and here was probably a clerk's chantry.

On a grey marble stone,—*Here lieth the body of Thomas Utber, gent. deceased, Nov. 25, 1641.*

One,—*In memory of Margaret, late wife of Thomas Utber, gent. deceased April 17, 1622.*

An altar-tomb of black marble, with the arms of le Strange impaling Lane, with this motto,—*Mihi parta tueri.*—for—*Susanna, wife of Roger le Strange, gent. and daughter of Francis Lane, of Thuxton, March 12, 1687; aged 37.*

A mural monument against the east wall here, with the arms of le Strange,—*For Roger le Strange, gent. third son of Sir Nicholas le Strange, knt. of Hunstanton, October 29, 1706, aged 63.*

In a north window of the chancel are the arms of the see of Ely.

In 1533 the chapel of Hoe was consolidated with the vicarage of East Dereham, and the Rev. George Thomas holds them of the gift of the Rev. Francis Wollaſton, L. L. B.

The late Thomas Halcott, esq. resided at his seat here.

HORNINGTOFT, wrote in Doomsday-book Horngthetoft. We meet in many counties with towns taking their names from Horn, as Hornby, Horn-castle, Horn-church, Hornsey, (all seated by some river, or stream) from their bending and winding; thus, the Tyber is called by Virgil Corniger; the ancient Britons gave the name of Corn to some rivers, hence the Cornavij.—*Parkin.*

Godric held this lordship under the Conqueror, or farmed it of him at the time of the survey. Aluric, a free-man, possessed it in the time of king Edward. Stigand had the soc of nine men in the reign of the said king, when they held two carucates, and Ralph earl of Norfolk seized on it; and on his forfeiture,
by

by rebellion, it came to the crown, and Godric held it of the king. All Horningtoft (including Kipton) was eight furlongs long, and five broad, and paid 4d. gelt.

Soon after the survey the Conqueror granted it to Alan earl of Richmond, in England, and of Bre-taigne, in France, who married Constance, one of the daughters of William the Conqueror.

Richard de Geel, with his brothers, conveyed to Hamo Burt land in this town, and Whiffonset, in the 10th of Richard I. and Hamo had power to inclose the common here, paying to the bishop of Norwich, and his successors, 2s. per ann.

Sir Hamo de Burt released by his deed, without date, to Robert le Hendy, of Pudding-Norton, and to his sons, all his right in certain lands; and one of the same name was lord of this manor and advowson in the 43d of Henry III.

In the 15th of Edward I. sir Thomas Burt claimed the assize, free-warren, and view of frank-pledge, with the view of the king's bailiff, in this town and in Kipton.

About the same time sir Robert de Tatehale held one knight's fee in this town, Kipton, &c. valued at 40l. per ann. and paid 10s. per ann. ward to Richmond-castle.

In the 18th of Edward I. sir Thomas de Burt granted this lordship by fine to Nicholas de Castello, with the advowson of the church; and the said Nicholas in the 20th of the said king held half a fee

here of sir Robert de Tatefhale; Gregory de Castello, his son, was lord in the 9th of Edward II.

In the year 1349, May 8, a rector was instituted on the presentation of sir Nicholas de Castello, knight; and on the 24th of June another, on the presentation of Hugh de Castello, lord of this village.

On the death of John de Beaufort, duke of Bedford, lord of the honor Richmond, in the 14th of Henry VI. Nicholas de Castello held two knights fees of the said honor; and Humphry Castell, esq. of Raveningham, was lord in 1461.

John Castell, of Raveningham, esq. died lord in 1551, and Roger, his eldest son, was lord after him; and on his death, about the 20th of Elizabeth, was succeeded by his brother, John Castell, esq.

In 1616 this lordship paid an annual rent of 5s. to the lord of Swaffham, as Richmond fee.

Mary Castell held it in 1659, and was charged to the militia rate at 100l. per ann.

Augustine Castell, of Raveningham, esq. sold it to sir Richard Berney, of Reedham, bart. in which family it remains, sir John Berney, of Kirby-Bedon, being the present lord.

Henry VIII. in his 38th year granted to Richard Taverner lands here, in the tenure of Nicholas Mynne, and John Dean, November 3.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Edmund the king and martyr; the ancient value was thirteen marks; the present value is 6l. 17s. 7d. and is discharged

charged of tenths, &c. The prior of Castle Acre had a pension, or portion of tithe, of one mark per annum. The tenths of the town were 2l. 14s. Deducted 4s.

The church and chancel are covered with lead, and has a square tower with four bells.

On a grave-stone with a brass plate, in the church, —*Orate p. a'i'a. Eliz. Oldman, nup. ux'is Henrici Oldman, q'i. obiit. iiii die Febr. anno Dni. MVXXXII. et p. quib; tenetr.*—On the font are the arms of Castell.

The Rev. Richard Berney, of Worstead, in this county, is the present rector, presented by the late sir Hanson Berney, bart.

KEMPSTON, or KEMPSTONE, wrote in Doom-day-book Kemeftuna. Four socmen held in the reign of king Edward, under archbishop Stigand, a carucate of land, but at the survey William earl Warren was lord, valued at 20s. per ann.

This lordship was given soon after the survey to the priory of Castle Acre, by Wimer, *dapifer*, or steward to the earl Warren, and lord of Gressenhall, and confirmed by his sons, Roger and William, who were also *dapiferi* to the said earls Warren.

In the 34th of Henry II. Maud, wife of Ubbe, conveyed to the prior of Castle Acre sixty acres of land in this town.

The prior held this manor about the 20th of Henry III. of the lord of Gressenhall, by the fourth part of a fee, in pure alms; and that king. in his 40th year, granted to the prior and convent free-warren in

his demesnes in Kempston, and Herringshaugh, on the forfeiture of 10l. for any one to pursue the game therein, dated at Walsingham, March 15. In the said reign John, cappellan. de Kempeston, quit-claimed to the aforesaid priory four acres in Tivedwode, and the tithe of two acres in Foxmere, by deed without date.

The prior in the 18th of Edward I. impleaded John de Harsike, lord of Dunham *Magna*, for taking sixteen score of sheep on Dunham moor, where the prior had right of common, as belonging to his tenement in that town.

The temporalities of the priory in 1428 were valued at 8l. 9s.

At the dissolution the prior of Castle Acre granted this lordship, with those of Herringshaugh, and Dyke-wood, by fine, to Henry VIII. in his 29th year, together with the rectory appropriated to his priory; and on December 22, in the said year, the king conveyed them both to Thomas duke of Norfolk, with the advowson of the vicarage; and in the 35th of that king the duke had licence to grant them to Roger Townshend, and Thomas Townshend had licence to alien them to Osbert Mundeford in the 5th of Edward VI.

It was in the Townshend family in the 4th of Elizabeth; and in or about the 15th of that queen Thomas Townshend had livery of this manor, and the advowson. In the 38th of the said reign Thomas Townshend, gent. aliened it to Edward Coke, esq. then attorney general, and afterwards a knight and a judge; and his immediate heir and descendent, the
right

right honorable the earl of Leicester, in 1759, died lord and patron.

The tenths of this village were 52s. Deducted 16s. 8d. The temporalities of Wendling abbey were 2s. 5d. ob. The church is a rectory, valued at six marks.

William the third earl Warren confirmed this grant of the church of Chemeston, or Kempston, with the appurtenances, which Wimer Dapifer had formerly given to the priory of Castle Acre, and Roger Buzun quitclaimed to the advowson. Eborard bishop of Norwich confirmed the appropriation of it to the priory. King John, by his charter, and Hubert archbishop of Canterbury, are also said to have confirmed it.

In 1246, March 11, the endowment of the vicarage was settled, which was "to consist in all the altarage, a manse in all the free land of the said church, in a tenement which Sewell and Agnes held of the said land, in tithes of pease and beans, saving to the prior the residue of the great tithes, the vicar to be charged to all the dues of the bishop and archdeacon."

In 1604 sir Edward Coke had a grant of this rectory impropriate. —The present value of the vicarage is 4l. 18s. 4d. and is discharged of first-fruits, &c.

In 1755 the Rev. Thomas George was presented to this vicarage by the late earl of Leicester, then baron Lovell.

William

William Heard, esq. resides at his seat in this town, which is pleasantly on the south banks of the river Nar.

Thomas William Coke, esq. of Holkham, is the present lord and patron of this parish.

LEXHAM, EAST, was wrote Lecceſham in Doomsday-book.—EAST LEXHAM MANOR. The principal lordſhip of this village was in king Edward's reign poſſeſſed by Ofchetel, and afterwards by Federic, but at the ſurvey William earl Warren held it in *capite* for a manor, valued always at 40s. per ann.

This William, the firſt earl Warren, granted this lordſhip, and many others, to Wimerus, his *dapiſer*, whoſe poſterity enjoyed it, and from them it came to the Stuteviles, Foliots, Haſtings, and to the le Stranges; Hamon le Strange, esq. died poſſeſſed of it in the 22d of Elizabeth, and Thomas was found his ſon and heir.

Sir Philip Wodehouſe, of Kimberley, and Griffel, his wife, daughter of William Yelverton, esq. of Rougham, and late widow of Thomas le Strange, esq. of Hunſtanton, held it in the 31ſt of Elizabeth, and Edmund Wodehouſe, esq. ſecond ſon of ſir Philip Wodehouſe, dying lord without iſſue in 1727, it came to his nephew, the late ſir John Wodehouſe, bart. whoſe ſon, ſir Armine Wodehouſe, many years repreſentative in parliament for this county, was lord and patron; but dying at Kimberley in 1777, it devolved to his eldeſt ſon and heir, the preſent ſir John Wodehouſe, bart. colonel of the Eaſt Norfolk regiment.

ROUSE'S MANOR. The manor also of Hermerus de Ferrarijs, ancestor of the lords Bardolph, in Litcham, extended into this town, and this part was held by sir Richard le Rouse in the reign of Henry III. who dying in the 6th year of Edward I. Alan, his son and heir, is said to have been born and baptized in this town. In the 15th of that king Alan had view of frank-pledge, assize of bread and beer of his tenants here, and in the 3d of Edward III. held here, in Dunham, &c. one fee of lord Bardolph.

After the Rouses it came to the Lexhams, a family that took their name from this village. Richard de Lexham lived in the 8th of Richard I. when William de Huntingfield conveyed sixty acres of land to him in this town, and William de Lexham gave the monks of Castle Acre all the tithes of his land, called Ralefwode.

In the 14th of Edward II. Edmund de Lexham, of Beeston, passed lands in East and West Lexham, Newton, and Dunham *Magna*. This Edmund was lord of also of Pudding-Norton, by Fakenham, and was living in the 20th of Edward III.

Soon after this it came probably by marriage, or heirship, to the Mundfords; John de Mundford was lord of Pudding-Norton, and of this, in the 21st of Edward III.

By Mary, sole daughter and heiress of Osbert Mundford, esq. who died in 1456, it came by marriage to William Tindale, with the manors of Hockwold and Pudding-Norton, who was created knight at the creation of Arthur prince of Wales; and in 26th of Henry VIII. sir Thomas Tindale, of Hockwold, knt. settled it on dame Winefrede, his wife, daughter

daughter of Thomas Cawfe, alderman of Norwich, widow.

In the 32d of Henry VIII. John Wright of Kilverstone, died seised of the manor of Tindal's, and Rouse's, in East Lexham, parcel of the possessions of sir Thomas Tindale, and it was in the Wrights till John Wright, of East Lexham, sold it about 1656 to sir Philip Wodehouse, in which family it remains, sir John Wodehouse, bart. being lord of the whole town, and patron of the church.

The temporalities of Castle Acre priory in 1428 were 3s. per ann. Thetford 5s. Langley abbey 8d. St. Faith's 15d. and of Westacre 5s.

Roger, *dapifer* to the earl Warren, son of William, lord of the honor of Gressenhall, gave to the monks of Castle Acre one mark of silver out of his mill of Lexham, and also the said mill, except 11s. which Baldwin de Frevile had in the said mill: Basilia, wife of Baldwin, gave them 2s. in pure alms, for the soul of her husband, out of the 11s. rent paid by them for the aforesaid mill, which grant she laid upon the altar before witneses.

Sir Richard le Rouse, of East Lexham, knight, gave them five acres in Lexham, at Mark-gate; also 12s. per ann. to be paid by his son, Ralph, of lands, called Cranwefwong, with his body to be buried in their church of Castle Acre priory.

Wimer, *dapifer* to the first earl Warren, gave the church of East Lexham to the priory of Castle Acre, with all the land belonging to the church, the tithe of his manor, and the advowson; in the reign of Henry I. Drogo, son of William Dapifer, his descendant

scendant, confirmed it; and William de Stuteville acknowledged in the 40th of Henry III. before the king's justices, the right of patronage to be in the prior and convent of that house.

The ancient value of this church, which is a rectory, dedicated to St. Andrew, was ten marks; the present value is 8l. 5s. 11d. ob. and is discharged of tenths, &c. The tenths of the town were 42s. Deduct 6s.

The prior of Castle Acre conveyed the patronage to Henry VIII. in his 29th year; and on December 22, in the said year, the king granted it to Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk.

In 1742 the Rev. Peter Smith was presented to the rectory of East Lexham by the late sir John Wodehouse, bart.

The church is a single pile, covered with lead, the chancel with glazed gutter tile, and has a four-square steeple, embattled with brick.

In the chancel lies a grave-stone,—*In memory of William Alpe, who died in January, 1629, aged 83.*

East Lexham is a handsome seat of the Wodehouses, and has been much improved by the present lord, who resided here in his father's life-time. The house is situated near the road from Castle Acre to Litcham, and not far from the Lynn road.

LEXHAM, WEST. The two towns of Lexham had the additional names of East and West since the conquest, being then called Lecceſham, and Lecheſham, from its site on a bog, or lake, by the water.

At

At the survey it was the lordship of Ralph de Beaufoe, and Ricard held it of him; but Fader was lord in the reign of the Confessor, when it was valued at 40s. afterwards at 3l. per ann. and a free-man had sixty acres of land under Harold, &c. valued then at 5s. and after at 4s. the soc belonged to the king's manor of Mileham. Here was a church endowed with thirty acres, valued at 16d. the whole was one leuca long, and half a leuca broad, and paid 7d. halfpenny gelt.

Ralph de Caineto, or Cheyney, was lord, as was John, his son, whose sister and coheirefs, Sibil, married William Fitz-Robert, who left three daughters and coheireffes; Margaret, the first wife of Hugh de Cressi, afterwards of Robert Fitz-Roger; Clementia, of Jordan de Sackvile; and Sarah, of Richard Engaine; but in 1217 their rights herein were released to Margaret de Cressi, and so it came entirely into that family. "But (says Parkin) it is more probable that this manor was not in the Cressis till Roger de Cressi, son of Hugh, obtained it on his marriage with Isabel, daughter and coheirefs of Hubert de Rie, in the 9th of king John, and died possessed of it in the 30th of Henry III. in right of his wife, Ralph de Beaufoe's daughter and heirefs being married to Hubert de Rie, castellan of Norwich."

About the end of Henry III. *anno* 1268, that king is said to have granted to William de Valentia, and his heirs, the manor of West Lexham, Filby, Postwick, &c. in Norfolk, which came to him as an escheat; and in the 3d of Edward I. the said William de Valentia, earl of Pembroke, claimed the assize, free-warren, &c. in this lordship; he was son of Hugh de Brun, earl of March, in France, by Isabel, his wife, widow of John king of England, sole daughter

ter to the earl of Angolessme, and took his name from the place of his nativity, and being brother by his mother to Henry III. was sent for into England, together with Guy de Lezinian, his elder brother, and had a grant of many lordships, and through the influence of the king married Joan, daughter of William, and sister and heiress to her brother, William de Monchenfi, great barons of this realm, by whom he had three sons, but was succeeded in his honor and inheritance by the youngest, Aymer, or Adamore de Valentia, earl of Pembroke, who held this town in *capite* by the service of three carrats of gold (*unum obolum aurj*) per ann. He attended queen Isabel of England into France, and was on June 23. 1323, murdered there, and dying without issue, this lordship was delivered in the 19th of Edward III. to David de Strabolgi, earl of Athol, son of John de Strabolgi, earl of Athol, in Scotland, (executed as a traitor in the 34th of Edward I.) David, the son, being restored in blood, and a great favorite in the reign of Edward II. and having married Joan, daughter of John Comyn, (by Joan, his wife, one of the sisters and coheiresses of Adamore aforesaid, earl of Pembroke) and sister and coheiress of John Comyn, lord of Badenagh.

In this family it continued till the death of David de Strabolgi, earl of Athol, October 10, in the 49th of Edward III. who had been summoned to parliament as a baron in the 39th, 42d, &c. of that king, and served in the wars in France, leaving by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of Henry lord Ferrers, of Groby, two daughters and coheiresses, Elizabeth, and Philippa.

Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, married sir Thomas Percy; the said sir Thomas had livery in the 1st of Richard

Richard II. of that purparty of inheritance which came to her from the earl of Pembroke. This Elizabeth, in an old writing, is called widow of sir Thomas Percy, junior, in the 12th of Richard II. and then granted to sir John de Halfham, and Philippa, his wife, (her sister and coheirefs) her right herein: it is said that she proved her age in the 5th of Edward III. and in the next year married sir Thomas Percy, and remarried John le Scroop, and was his wife in the 15th of Richard II.

Philippa, the youngest sister and coheirefs, is said by Dugdale to marry sir Ralph Percy, brother to sir Thomas, younger sons of the earl of Northumberland, and afterwards sir John Halfham, by whom she had John Halfham, who was heir to this lordship in the 19th of Richard II. and appears to be lord in the 3d of Henry V.

Sir Hugh de Halfham died seised of it in the 20th of Henry VI. Petronilla, his second wife, surviving, leaving Joan (daughter and heirefs of Richard Halfham, his brother, and wife of John Lewkenor, esq.) his heirefs; and it was settled by John Lewkenor, of Suffex, on Thomas Randolph, with the manors of Filby, Postwick, and Stifky. Soon after this it came to the Boleyns, of Blickling, and sir William Boleyn died possessed of it in 1505.

Edward VI. in his second year granted licence to sir James Boleyn to alien it to John Calibut, esq. and his heirs, with a fold-course in this town, East Lexham, Dunham *Magna*, Newton, and Castle Acre. In the 12th of Elizabeth his son, John Calibut, esq. died at Upton, in Northamptonshire, October 23, lord of this manor, and left four daughters and coheireffes, Margaret, Ann, Susan, and Elizabeth, amongst whom

it

it was divided; but in the 2d of James I. fir Edward Coke was lord of the whole, and his descendant, the right honorable the earl of Leiceſter, died lord in 1759. Thomas William Coke, eſq. of Holkham, is the preſent lord.

The earl Warren's manor of Eaſt Lexham extended into this town, and Roger, who was *dapiſer* to earl Warren, and lord, gave to the monks of Caſtle Acre one mark per ann. rent out of his mill at Lexham, ſituate on the weſt ſide of the town.

Richard de Sancto-Claro, or St. Clare, gave the ſaid monks his right in the church in free alms for ever, with all the liberties thereto belonging.

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and was given to the priory of Peterſton. The biſhop of Norwich granted (or appropriated) to the ſaid priory (to relieve their poor eſtate) the church of Weſt Lexham of their patronage, to be poſſeſſed to their own uſe, except the vicarage; the prior to have all the tithe of grabs, with a moiety of the land, and meſſuage, belonging to the church, dated at Creak, Auguſt 4, 1259; and in 1265 the ſaid biſhop confirmed to the priory of Caſtle Acre the tiſhes of the land, called Kalveſwide, of the demefne of William de Lexham, alſo two parts of the tithe of the demefne formerly Roger de Creſſi's, in this town.

An agreement was made in 1299 between the prior of Caſtle Acre and his convent, and the prior and convent of Peterſton, " that whereas the monks of Caſtle Acre had lett to farm to the monks of Peterſton, and their ſucceſſors, two parts of all the tiſhes of the demefnes formerly Roger de Creſſi's, and William de Lexham's, and all the land, called Rabneiwed,

G

belonging

belonging to the monastery of Castle Acre, lying in West Lexham, for 40s. per ann. to be paid to the monks of Castle Acre for the use of the sacrist, at two terms; and on default of payment the monks of Peterston were liable to be *excommunicated* by the bishop of Norwich; for the non-payment of the said 40s. they tied all their lands and tenements in Rougham to be seized, and their goods distrained by the earl Warren's bailiffs, or the bailiff of the sheriff of Norfolk for the time being."

The rectory was anciently valued at five marks, the vicarage at 40s. and the tenths of the town at 1l. 14s.—Deduct 8s. 8d.

The prior and convent of Peterston had the presentation till that house was united to the priory of Wallingham, in 1446.

In 1517 the rector was presented by the prior and convent of Castle Acre, when it is said to be a rectory, valued at eight marks; but in 1555 by Thomas duke of Norfolk, who had a grant of the advowson from Henry VIII. on the dissolution of the priory, December 22, *anno* 29.

In 1661 sir Philip Wodehouse, bart. presented; and in 1742 the Rev. Thomas George was presented by the late sir John Wodehouse, bart. Mr. George is the present rector, and sir John Wodehouse, bart. of Kimberley and East Lexham, patron; it is valued at 5l. 11s. 6d. ob. and is discharged of tenths, &c.

The church is a single pile, with a chancel covered with thatch, and a round tower at the west end.

LITCHAM

LITCHAM is a considerable village on the road from Lynn-Regis, 17 miles, to Norwich 24, and through which the road from East Dereham to Maftingham, Houghton, Snettisham, and Hunstanton, passes.

NETHERHALL MANOR. Part of this town was a beruite, or manor, depending on the capital manor, or honor of Mileham, held by Stigand, archbishop of Canterbury, a lay fee in his own right, and was deprived of it by the Conqueror, and farmed of him by William de Noiers; it was valued in Mileham.

Soon after this Alan, son of Flaald, to whom the Conqueror granted the manor of Mileham, had also this with it, as an appendix to, or part of the said manor. This Alan was ancestor of the noble family of the Fitz-Alans, earls of Arundel, and lords of this manor, and of Mileham, to which town for a more particular account of them we refer the reader.

Alan granted it to Sewald, with the hundreds of South Greenhoe and Launditch, to hold of him and his heirs; of this Sewald was John le Strange descended, who in the 52d of Henry III. held here one fee, was of age, and *not* a knight; and in the 55th of Henry III. having impleaded the rector of Litcham for keeping the evidences of his lordship from him, released the action by deed, dated at Knockin, which shows that this family was related to that of Knockin, in Shropshire: by Isabella, his wife, he had two sons, John, and Ralph; John, the eldest, married Clementia, relict of Jordan de Sackvile, and daughter of sir William de Burgh.

In the 14th of Edward I. Baldwin de Frevile had some interest here, in Wellingham, and Weasenharn.

In the 15th of that king he claimed frank-pledge by the view of the king's bailiff, affize, and waif and stray, in this manor. The principal manor continued in the le Stranges, of Litcham. Of this family was Alice, daughter of sir John le Strange, to whom sir John Gedding sold for sixty-three marks all the messuages, lands, homages, rents, &c. in this town, by deed without date.

After this we find it in the family of de Felton, who had an interest here in the reign of Henry III. when Robert de Felton held half a fee of John le Strange de la Marche, that is, of the marshes in Wales, &c. and John of the Fitz-Alans, lords of Mileham; and in the 25th year of Edward I. Robert de Felton had the grant of a market every week at his manor of Litcham, and a fair yearly on the day and morrow of the feast of All Saints, with free-warren; this seems to be that Robert who was knighted at Westminster about this time, with three hundred young gentlemen, sons of noblemen and knights, on the feast of Pentecost, with great solemnity, at the high altar in the abbey church, on the creation of the king's son prince of Wales, who was knighted also with them; and John de Felton was lord in the 9th of Edward II.

Sir Thomas Felton, senior, granted in the 5th of Edward III. to Richard de Lambeth, citizen of London, 40l. per ann. out of his manor of Litcham; and in the 20th of that king Sibill de Felton held half a fee of the earl of Arundel; sir Thomas de Felton, knight of the garter, died seised of it in or about the 4th of Richard II. with the advowson of the church, and Mary, his eldest daughter, was married to sir Edmund Hengrave, and Sibilla, to sir Thomas de Morley:

ley : fir Thomas Felton was governor of Aquitain, in France, and taken prisoner in 1377.

It does not appear that either Hengrave or Morley had any interest in this lordship.

Joan de Felton, widow of fir Thomas, held it in the 4th of Henry IV. by half a fee, of the earl of Arundel ; and on her death it came to Cecilia, daughter of John Breton, esq. of Witchingham *Magna*, by Mary, his wife, daughter of fir Hamon de Felton, who released to fir Thomas Erpingham, and his heirs, all her right in the manor of Felton, called Netherhall, in Litcham, and in the advowson of the church, in the 10th of the aforesaid king.

In the pedigree of the Wodehouses, of Kimberley, " Sir Edward Wodehouse, who lived in the reign of " Richard II. *anno* 1378. is said to have married a " daughter and coheirefs of ——— Erpingham," and that one of the family married Joan, a daughter and coheirefs of fir Thomas Erpingham, who brought the manor of Netherhall, in this town, into the family, is certain ; but as fir Thomas Erpingham was living in the reigns of Henry V. and VI. and died in 1426, it could not be his daughter and coheirefs, Joan, who married the aforesaid fir Edward Wodehouse.

John Wodehouse, esq. famous in the wars of France, at Agincourt, &c. was an intimate friend and fellow-foldier with Erpingham, being grandson of fir Edward Wodehouse aforesaid, and died in 1439.

This lordship is now the property of fir John Wodehouse, bart. of Kimberley, and East Lexham.

EAST-HALL was in the days of king Edward the lordship of Turchetel; but on the conquest was granted to Hermerus de Ferrarijs, ancestor of the lords Bardolph, barons of Wormegay; and William held it under Hermerus, and half a carucate, &c. in Weafenham-Thorpe, valued at 50s. and 10s. over; the whole was eight furlongs long, and six broad, including a manor in Rougham, and paid 7d. gelt.

This lordship of the lord Bardolph's extended also into Dunham *Magna*, and East Lexham; that part of it which was in the town seems to be held by sir John Gedding, and conveyed by him to Alice, daughter of sir John le Strange, for sixty-three marks, by deed without date.

In the 8th of Richard II. Thomas Gardiner, esq. lord of Giffing, held in right of his wife, Cecilia, daughter of John Breton, esq. a fourth part of this lordship; and in the 9th of the said king John Petere, of Long Stratton, had the manor of East-hall, in Litcham, &c. in right of Claricia, his wife.

Sir John Tiptoft held in right of his wife, Jocosa, the third part of this manor, 180 acres of land, &c. by the 40th part of a fee; the lady Jocosa was a daughter and coheirefs of Edward Cherlton, lord Powys, by Alianore, his wife, daughter of Thomas, and sister and coheirefs to Edmund Holland, earl of Kent, widow of Roger Mortimer, earl of March; Joan, the other daughter and coheirefs of Edward lord Powys, was married to sir John Grey.

After this it came to sir Thomas Erpingham, who was lord of the whole, and by his daughter and coheirefs, Joan, to sir Edward Wodehouse, who in the

18th of Edward IV. was lord of East-hall- and Netherhall.

The temporalities of the prioress of Carrowe in 1428 were 6d.—Westacre 6d.—Castle Acre 6d.

Agnes, widow of Ralph le Strange, of Litcham, gave to Castle Acre priory 2s. rent per ann. and the prior granted to Michael Harold, of Tittleshall, six acres of land in Litcham, paying 3s. per ann.

“The town (says Mr. Parkin) takes its name from the river Leche*, or Litch, that runs by it, as Leche-lade in Gloucestershire, &c.” It is wrote in Doomf-day-book Licham, and Letham, and has since been spelt Lucham, Lutcham, and Lycham.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, is a neat, regular pile, with a nave, covered with reed, a north and south aisle, and a chancel, covered with lead; at the west end of the nave a square tower of brick, with coins of free-stone, and embattled, with a clock and dial, built by Matthew Halcot, a tanner, who new cast the bells, and gave the clock.

In the nave lie several grave-stones;—*In memory of Philippa, wife of John Baly, and relict of Edward Girling, gent. who died August 24, 1752, aged 52.*

For John Neale, gent. son of John Neale, merchant, in Wisbeach, and uncle to the late excellent rector of this parish, who died February 12, 1727, aged 66.

* The name of the river which runs by Litcham never existed but in the *imagination* of the reverend author.—The river is now known by the Nar.

In memory of Hellen Lawrence, widow, who died January 16, 1741, aged 88 years; and near to her lieth Matthew Halcot, and Francis Lawrence, gent. her two husbands.

For Matthew Halcot, gent. who died in 1688, ætat, 36,—with a Latin inscription.—And one for—Matthew Halcot, gent. who died August 7, 1707, aged 34.

Against the wall of the tower, fronting the nave, a mural monument of marble,—In memory of John Glover, gent. erected by Martha, his widow, who to perpetuate his memory has given 40s. per ann. payable out of lands in this parish, by the minister and churchwardens, to the poor thereof, on the feast day of St. John the Evangelist; he died May 23, 1741, in his 48th year,—with his arms on the summit.

In the chancel a stone,—In memory of John Wastell, gent. of this parish, who died April 19, 1710, aged 73.—For John Wastell, gent. who died July 13, 1732, aged 54.

One,—In memory of Edward Girling, late of Litcham, gent. son of Edward and Ann Girling, of Norwich, who died March 27, 1736, aged 30,—and his shield.

In the rails of the communion-table a grave-stone,—In memory of William Neale, the late worthy rector of this parish, and vicar of Kempston, son of John Neale, late rector of Mileham, who died June 30, 1741, aged 56.*

An

* This John left 2s. weekly to poor persons, and their dwelling-house.

An altar monument in the church-yard,—*Reliquiæ Joh. Halcot, gen. qui mortem obt. apud Lenne, 22 die Martij, A. D. 1678.*

Another,—*Corpus Matth. Halcot, gen. qui hanc vitam meliori commutavit 30 July, 1675, ætat. suæ 75, cujus sumptibus hoc campanile penitus constructum fuit, &c. 1669.*

Also,—*Hic jacet corpus Joh. Halcot, armig. de Medio Temple, Londinensi, quond. socij, filij Matt. Halcot, &c. qui dedit lagenam, et calicem argent. altari hujus ecclesiæ, natus 1648, obt. ----- at. 33.*

The ancient value of the church of Litcham, with the portion of the prior of Castle Acre, was ten marks; the present value is 9l. 2s. 6d.

In 1741 the Rev. Peter Smith was presented to this rectory by sir John Wodehouse, bart. of Kimberley, deceased.

Dame Mary Wodehouse, relict of sir Roger, in 1634, left 3l. per ann. to the prior, and William Allee 40s. per ann.

On the common in this parish was anciently an hermitage.

Litcham was certainly a market town, and better inhabited than it now is. If we mistake not it has once suffered by fire. It has one fair annually held on 1st of November. Here is a post-office, and inn, the Bull; and was the road from Lynn this way to Norwich made *turnpike*, this village, as well as the country adjacent, would derive great benefit.

LONGHAM is not mentioned in Doomsday-book, being part of the great manor of Mileham, and there accounted for. About the end of the reign of Henry III. Isabel le Strange, Richard le Denys, and Nicholas de Scarning, held lands here of the fee of the lord of Mileham. In the 15th of Edward I. John le Strange had the affize, waif, &c. of his tenants, and Isabel le Strange, widow, in the 34th of that king conveyed it to Ralph de Bagthorpe, who occurs lord in the 9th of Edward II.

Thomas Gunton, who gave name to this lordship, possessed it in the 20th of Edward III. and in the 17th of Edward IV. John de Boking, who married Cecilia, daughter and heiress of William de Narburgh, died seised of it in her right; Richard de Boking, esq. his son, held it of the honor of Mileham, and died in 1505. Catherine, his daughter, was the wife of John Heydon in the 35th of Henry VIII.

In the 25th of Elizabeth Edward Leverok, gent. and Oliver Buckenham, had a *præcipe* to deliver to Thomas Overend, and Richard Atkins, Langham-hall, Gunton's, and New-hall, in Longham. Soon after this it came to sir Edward Coke, lord chief justice, and the right honorable the late earl of Leicester, his descendant, died lord in 1759. Thomas William Coke, esq. of Holkham, is the present lord.

Thomas Potter granted by fine to Robert Potter, and Claricia, his wife, in the 29th of Edward III. the fourth part of a fee, late Deny's, and soon after it was held by James Brice, of Thrandeston, and Isabel, his wife, and of Edward le Blound, and Elizabeth, his wife, who were coheiresses.

Hermerus de Ferrarijs at the survey had seized on the lands of a free-man in *Lawingham*, valued at 5s. per ann. but the soc was in the lord of Milham, in the king. Hermerus was ancestor of the lords Bardolph.

Robert de Watlington, who gave name to this manor, held it in the reign of Henry III. by the fourth part of a fee, of the lord Bardolph.

Jeffrey Bruffyard died possessed of it about the 3d of Edward III. and one of the same name was lord in the 3d of Henry IV. John Fuller had a *præcipe* to render it to Arthur Scarlet, with a sheep-fold, called Prior's, in this town.

Soon after this the whole interest came to sir Edward Coke, and the earl of Leicester died lord of the whole town in 1759; his descendant and heir, Thomas William Coke, esq. of Holkham, knight of the shire, is the present lord and patron of the church.

The tenths were 2l. 15s.—Deducted 7s.—Wendling abbey temporalities 9s. 6d.—Walsingham 1l. 10s.

The church was a rectory, valued at thirteen marks; it stands by itself, near the road from East Dereham to Litcham.

Robert de Kaam, and Joan, his wife, John de Florence, and Sibilla, his wife, coheiresses, released by fine to William de Wendling one acre of land, with the advowson; the said William gave it to Wendling abbey, to which it was appropriated, the church being dedicated to St. Peter.

In the 4th of Elizabeth Arthur Futter had a grant of the impropriated rectory, possessed by William Futter in the 35th of Elizabeth, and it came soon after to Sir Edward Coke.

In 1775 the Rev. Thomas Wigg Handcock, of Norwich, was presented to this curacy of Longham, by the late Wenman Coke, esq. representative in parliament for the county of Norfolk.

The church is a decent building, with a square tower, and two bells. The hall stands a little south of it, and the village lies scattered up and down the parish, like most other towns in Norfolk.

MILEHAM. The capital manor of this town belonged to Stigand the archbishop of Canterbury (in his own right) in the reign of Edward the Confessor; but on his being deposed by William the Conqueror, it came into his hands, and William de Noiers held, or farmed it of that king at the survey.—*Meleham*.

It was a very considerable lordship, and esteemed as an honor, containing in Stigand's time lands, &c. valued in the whole, with its beruite, &c. at 30l. in king Edward's time, and at 60l. quit-rent at the survey*; it was three leucas long, and one broad, whoever held it to farm.

“ Mell, or Mill, gives name to many towns. Melbourn, in Cambridgeshire; Melford, in Suffolk; Milford,

* It is not to be thought that all this was in Mileham, but lying in other townships, also depending on this capital manor, or honor, as beruites belonging to it, viz. Litcham, Dunham, &c. are valued with this lordship, and paid 27d. to a 30s. geld.

Milford, in Hertfordshire; and Milbrooke, in Bedfordshire."—*Parkin*.

This William de Noiers was a great favorite of the Conqueror's; he took care of, or farmed under him, 34 lordships in this county.

At the survey we see that king William was lord of this manor; but soon after Alan, son of Flaald, obtained it by the gift, or purchase, of the Conqueror, also the castle of Oswestry, in Shropshire, with the territory adjoining, which belonged to Meredith ap-Blethyn, a Welshman, or ancient Briton, and marrying the daughter and heiress of Warine, sheriff of that county, had, in her right, the barony of the said Warine. Alan and his father attended the Conqueror into England.

This Alan gave to the monks of Castle Acre lands, and the orchard, (*frutestam*) which they inclosed at Kempstone, and twenty acres at Sporle, and 3s. rent out of his mill at Newton.

William Fitz-Alan was his son and heir, and married Isabel, daughter and heiress of Helias de Say, niece to Robert earl of Gloucester, lady of Clun, in Shropshire, in whose right he became baron of Clun, by whom he had William, his son and successor, who in the 12th of Henry II. certified his knights fees to be in number thirty-five and an half, nineteen *de veteri seoffamento*, and sixteen and an half *de novo*, and died about the 19th of that king, leaving William Fitz-Alan his son and heir, who died about the 16th of king John.

In this year Thomas de Erdington gave 5000 marks for the wardship and marriage of his son and heir,

heir, William Fitz-Alan, to his daughter; but dying soon after, John, his brother, succeeded.

This John Fitz-Alan, lord of Clun, married to his first wife Isabel, sister and coheirefs to Hugh, and second daughter and coheirefs of William de Albiny, earl of Arundel, by whom he had John, his son and heir, and died in the 24th of Henry III. 1240.

On a partition of the lands of Hugh earl of Arundel in the 28th of Henry III. this John Fitz-Alan had the castle of Arundel, in Suffex, assigned unto him; and it appears that he had in the 34th of that king a park in his manor of Mileham,. In the 49th of the said king he had an order from the king to send to him his son and heir, (then in custody of Simon de Montfort) to deliver up his castle of Arundel into Simon's custody, to secure the peace of the kingdom, and died in the 52d of that king, leaving issue by Maud, his wife, John, his son and heir, *according to Dugdale.*

In the 51st of Henry III. the sheriff accounted for 101s. and 6d. rent of assize of this manor, &c. late John Fitz-Alan's, "from Saturday, the feast of All Saints, to the 6th of December," when he delivered it to Maud, his widow.

This John left Richard Fitz-Alan, his son and heir, and this manor was found to be ancient demefne, held by one knight's fee, the custody of it being granted to John le Strange by the king, during the non-age of Richard, the heir.

About this time no less than seventy-six fees are accounted to belong to the honor of Arundel, in this county.

This

This Richard appears to be the first of the Fitz-Alans who bore the title of earl of Arundel, as lord of that castle, without any formal creation, or other investiture, and as lord of this town had in the 3d of Edward I. affize of bread and beer, a gallows, and other royal privileges. In the 15th of this king the lord of the manor had view of frank-pledge, the affize, a tumbrell, gallows, pillory, toll, and theam; and in the said year had orders to provide 600 able footmen, well armed, for the Welsh expedition, against Rice ap-Meredith, then in rebellion, and that he should, with the other baron-marchers, be resident on their lands, with men ready armed; and in the 23d of this king to be at Plymouth, on the feast of All Saints, to attend Edmund, the king's brother, into Gascoigne, the king sending the steward of his house, and his clerk, to appraise their horses, to pay them their wages, and perform other things for their passage.

This Richard was the seventh earl who signed the letter to the pope, in the 29th of Edward I. "denying that the kingdom of Scotland was his fee, or that he had any thing to do in tempotal matters," dated February 12, 1301, and died seised of this manor, and that of Beeston, in the 20th of Edward I. held in *capite* by one knight's fee, valued at 57l. 5s. 9d. per ann. and Edmund was his son and heir, by Alizon, daughter of the marquis of Saluce, in Italy.

Edmund earl of Arundel was a great favorite of Edward II. and being taken at Bristol on queen Isabel's arrival into England with an armed power, was there beheaded before the gates of the castle, in sight of the king, in October, 1326, leaving by Alice, his wife, sister and heiress of John earl Warren and Surry, Richard, his son and heir. On Edmund's attainder

attainder and death this manor of Mileham, with the castle of Arundel, was granted August 8, in the 1st year of Edward III. to John de Eltham, the king's brother.

It is said in the grant to be in the occupation of Gilbert de Glencarn, for life; but Richard, son of Edmund, being restored in parliament in the 4th of Edward III. had livery of this manor, &c. and in the 19th of that king married Alianore, daughter of Henry Plantagenet, earl of Lancaster, widow of John lord Beaumont, and died January 24, 1376.

By an original inventory of his goods, still remaining amongst the evidences of the duke of Norfolk, it appears that he had in money, in gold and silver, 44981 marks, and with that and what he had in other places, the whole sum amounted to 108367 marks 13s. 3d. ob.—a most surprising sum in that age, and the more so, if we consider that a mark then was of the intrinsic triple value of the money now current; a pound weight of silver then was but of the value of 20s. whereas now a pound weight makes 3l. of our money*, and if we consider also how much provision, &c. a mark would then buy beyond what it does at present. By his will he devised three of his coronets, his best to lord Richard Fitz-Alan, his son and heir. He had also a daughter, Alianore, (not mentioned by Dugdale) married to John de Beresford.

In the 13th of Richard II. Richard earl of Arundel and Surry subscribed the letter to pope Boniface, “complaining of the great mischiefs to the kingdom by papal provisions to benefices, and other papal grievances;”

* By this criterion alone we find that the sum amounts to 216,735l.

ances ;" but this earl, by the iniquity of those times, was beheaded in Cheapside, London, in 1393, the king himself being a spectator, and Thomas Mowbray earl marshal; the earl of Nottingham being his executioner, and binding up his eyes, leaving Thomas his son and heir, by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of William de Bohun, earl of Northampton.

On his attainder this manor seems to have been granted to Thomas of Woodstock; duke of Gloucester, the king's uncle, and after to Edmund de Langley, duke of York, the king's uncle, with the hundreds of Launditch and South Greenhoe, and the manor of Beeston.

These were part of the possessions of Thomas duke of Gloucester, attainted; but on the accession of Henry IV. to the crown, in 1399, Thomas, son and heir of Richard Fitz-Alan, the late earl, was restored in blood, and to all his lands and honors, by parliament.

In the 3d of Henry IV. sir John Harlick held in Mileham, and Dunham, half a fee of this earl, who bore quarterly the arms of Fitz-Alan, or Arundel, and the earl Warren; crest. an eagle's head couped, issuing out of a ducal coronet, between two wings erect, and married Beatrix, a natural daughter of the king of Portugal, but died without issue, October 13, 1415.

On the death of this earl his honor and inheritance, by virtue of an entail, came to sir John Fitz-Alan, alias Arundel, lord Maltravers.

This John earl of Arundel married Alianore, daughter of sir John Berkley, of Beverston, in Gloucestershire, and dying April 29, in the 9th year of Henry V. left two sons, John and William.

John, his son and heir, was earl of Arundel, and died in France, May 12, in the 13th of Henry VI. being wounded by a culverine shot, and had a son, who dying in his minority, William Fitz-Alan, his uncle, succeeded him, and inherited the earldom and estate of the family; he died in the 3d year of Henry VII. and Thomas was his son and heir, by Joan, his wife, daughter of Richard Nevill, earl of Salisbury.

This Thomas earl of Arundel, by his deed, dated February 14, in the 19th of Henry VII. constituted Henry Fermour, of Barsham, in Gallow hundred, his feodary in the said county.

On his death, October 25, 1524, William, his son and heir, by Margaret, daughter of Richard Woodville, earl Rivers, succeeded to the earldom of Arundel and estates, and married Ann, daughter of Henry earl of Northumberland; he died January 23, in the 35th of Henry VIII. and was succeeded by his son and heir, Henry, constable of England at the coronation of queen Mary, and queen Elizabeth.

By Catherine, daughter of Thomas Grey, marquis of Dorset, his first wife, he had Henry, his son, who married Anne, daughter and heiress of sir John Wentworth, of Gosfield, in Essex, and died at Brussels, without issue, in 1556, in his father's life-time, (who died February 25, in the 22d of Elizabeth); but many years before his death this Henry, the father, earl of Arundel, conveyed this lordship, with that of Beeston,

to sir Thomas Gresham, knt. of London, and had licence for so doing in the 1st year of queen Elizabeth.

Sir Thomas was lord in the 12th of Elizabeth; and after the death of sir Thomas Gresham it was sold by his executors to Stephen Barnwell, gent. or rather to Henry Bastard, gent. who sold it to the said Stephen.

In 1580 lady Gresham offered this and Beeston manor to be sold for 3300l.

Stephen Barnwell, gent. descended from Thomas Barnwell, of Offaly, in Ireland, and by Blanch, his wife, daughter of Novegent, of Dublin, had Morry, Gerrard, and Thomas, who was of Lincoln's-inn, baron of the Exchequer, and married Alice, daughter of Dyvelin, master of the rolls, and was father of Thomas, Richard, and Robert, who lived at Lenton, in Northamptonshire, and had a son and heir, Simon Barnwell, of Cranfley, in the said county.

His son and heir, Thomas Barnwell, of Cranfley, married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Cradock, of Dingley, in the said county, by whom he had Edward, who by Ann, his wife, daughter of John Spencer, of Bedfordshire, gent. had Stephen Barnwell.

This Stephen purchased this lordship, and settled here, and by Mary, his wife, daughter of Nicholas Cotton, of Catworth *Parva*, in Huntingdonshire, or rather daughter of Nicholas Calton, of Dulwich, in Surry, he left Edward Barnwell, esq. of Mileham, who married May 6, 1618, at Elting, Ann, daughter of sir Thomas Playters, of Sotterley, in Suffolk, bart. and was father of Charles Barnwell, who by his wife,

a daughter and heiress of Mr. Sydner, had his son and heir, Charles, who married Mary, daughter of Mr. Higham, of Barrow, in Suffolk, whose son, Edward, was lord in 1660. He left Charles Barnwell, esq. who by his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of John Neal, rector of Mileham, had the late Rev. Charles Barnwell, rector of Beeston, and lord of Mileham, on whose demise it came to his son, Charles Barnwell, esq. the present lord and patron.

Here was also a little lordship in this town, and Bittering, belonging to Alwin, a freeman, in the time of king Edward, and afterwards held by a certain widow, under Godric, who farmed it of the king; in the whole valued at 20s. at the survey no value, and Godric then accounted for it. This was also granted by the Conqueror, after the survey, to Alan, son of Flaald, and so became united to the aforesaid manor.

Also here was another little lordship held by Alan earl of Richmond at the survey, and in Stanfield, which the son of Almar held of Alan, and which two socmen under Stigand possessed in the reign of king Edward, consisting of lands, &c. valued at 10s. per annum.

BURGHWOOD MANOR. This lordship belonged to the earls of Richmond. Robert de Hulmo was lord in the reign of Henry III. and had free-warren in his lands at Withersthorpe, in Mileham. Giles de Hulmo, son of Robert, claimed the assize and other liberties in the 15th of Edward I.

In

In the 20th of Edward III. Richard de Burwood, or Burghwood*, who gave name to it, held half a fee, late Giles de Hulmo's, paying 10s. rent to the honor of Richmond. It was in the hands of sir Roger Beauchamp in the 3d of Henry IV.

In the 14th of Henry VI. John duke of Bedford died seised of one fee in this town, and Swaffham, held by sir Roger Shotesbrook, as parcel of the aforesaid honor; and John St. John, and Joan, his wife, granted the manor of Burghwood, with three messuages, 840 acres of land, and 40s. rent in this town, Beeston, and Tittleshall, to sir William Capel, knt. in the 4th of Henry VIII.

In the 1st of Edward VI. it was conveyed by fine from sir Henry Capel to Roger Townshend, of Rainham.

George Townshend conveyed it in the 1st of Philip and Mary to Robert Coke; and his son, sir Edward Coke, was lord, in which family it continued, Thomas earl of Leicester dying possessed of it in 1759, and Thomas William Coke, esq. M. P. is the present lord.

The priory of Hempton, by Fakenham, had lands here.

Henry VIII. in his 35th year, granted to Richard Andrews thirty-nine acres of land, called the prior's lands, lying in the fields of Mileham, to be held *in capite*. In the 2d of Elizabeth Thomas Crowe held it, and Richard, his son, had licence in the 4th of

H 3 that

* The family of Burghwood were the keepers, or castellans, of the castle in this town, under the earls of Arundel.

that queen to alienate it to Christopher Crowe, and the said Christopher held it in 22d of James I. Ralph Crowe died possessed of it in the 16th of Charles I. and left by Phillis, his wife, John, his son, a minor.

There was anciently a family who took their name from this town. George de Mileham had lands here about the 50th of Edward III.

This town is famous for the birth of sir Edward Coke, lord chief justice of England, the most learned and greatest lawyer of England, whose birth prognosticated something wonderful; his mother, sitting by the fire-side, was so suddenly and quickly delivered of him, that she had not time to be removed to a bed that was near—as sir Edward informed sir Henry Spelman.

Robert, his father, was lord of the manor of Burghwood, and had a grant of arms by Thomas Hawley, clarencieux, dated June 9, in the 2d and 3d of Philip and Mary.—“Argent, on a chev’ron ingrailed, gules, between three tyger’s heads erased, sable, dented argent, and languid of the second, collared or;—Crest, on a wreath, argent and sable, a turkey-cock proper, mantled gules, buttoned and tasselled, or.”—But it appears that sir Edward Coke bore very different arms, as may be seen over the gate of the old house, viz. per pale, azure and gules, three eagles displayed, argent, impaling quarterly, in the first and fourth ermin, in the second and third paly of fix, or. and gules, in a bordure, azure, Knightley.

About the year 1600 here was a park, in which there was a great deal of timber sold (as said) by the acre, at 40s. or thereabouts per acre, and on every acre forty or sixty good timber trees. This park
seems

seems to have been on the left side of the road leading from Norwich to Lynn.

In the said town was formerly a strong castle, the scite of which is now part of the demesnes of the manor of Mileham; it stood by the road-side (on the left hand beyond the church) as above, being of an oval form containing about twelve or thirteen acres, surrounded by two deep ditches, or trenches; in that part to the south was the keep, with another ditch, where are ruins of walls that crossed the ditch, and the north part was the barbican; the outward ditch and inclosure seems to have gone cross the high-road, and to have inclosed the house and ground wherein sir Edward Coke was born, as on each side of it, and behind it, may be observed; the entrance into it seems to have been on the west side.

The temporalities of Fakenham-dam priory were valued here in 1428 at 17s. 9d. per ann. and the tenths of the town were 3l. 16s. Deducted 16s.

The church of Mileham is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and consists of a nave, a north and south aisle, with a chancel, all covered with lead. On the west end of the north aisle stands a four-square tower, with four bells, and serves for a porch in the church.

In the chancel lie several grave-stones; one—*In memory of Mr. Fermor Pepys, some time of this parish, of a worthy descent, most happy nature, choicest education, a tried faith to God, a persecuted church, a banished prince, and his old friend; he was born and lived a gentleman, baptized and lived a Christian, died a believer, and lives a saint, obt. Septr. 22, 1660, ætat. 79.—John Pepys died 19 January, 1658, ætat. 27.*

Edioard Barnwell, gent. Nov. 30, 1666, ætat. 70.—Charles Barnwell, gent. his grandson, died December 19, 1702, ætat. 49.

Anna, Caroli Ward, hujus ecclesiæ rectoris, uxor charissima, necnon Johan. Smith, in agro Suff. generosi filia, obt. A. D. 1721, ætat. 53.

John Neale, some time rector, died May 18, 1704, aged 56 — John, his eldest son, died February 18, 1699, aged 22.—Elizabeth, wife of Charles Barnwell, gent. and daughter of John Neale, late rector, died November 19, 1705.

Barnwell impaling Berney;—Maria, uxor Caroli Barnwell, armig. filia Dni. Tho. Berney, militis et baronetti, et Dnæ Sacræ uxoris ejus obt. 17 Dec. 1720, ætat. 48.

A stone, —For four children of Thomas Browne, gent. and Elizabeth, his wife.

In the east window of the chancel,—quarterly, Arundel and Maltravers, impaling Bryan, and Buers: and in the south window, the effigy of the Virgin teaching the child Jesus to read; also of a man and woman on their knees; over their heads, Peddar; before them two horses travelling, with packs on their backs, and under them, Thomas Broun.

Also a grave-stone, with the arms of Ward,—Carolus Ward, quadraginta annos hujus ecclesiæ rector, migravit Aug. 6, 1744, ætat. 82.—He gave 200l. to cloath the poor annually, three men and three women, in blue coats, at Christmas, and the rest to the poor.

In the north aisle,—*William Burly, ob. Aug. 19, 1669;—with the arms of Barnwell and Heigham.*

In the south aisle,—*Robert Bradfield, of Mileham, gent. obt. Dec. 3, 1669.*

Of your charite p^y for the soul of Xtofer Crow, which decessyd the vii day of Decr. anno Dⁿⁱ. xv^oxxvi, and Christian, his wife;—with their portraitures in brasse, and of four sons and five daughters.

In the nave a grave-stone,—*In memory of John le Strange, esq. third son of Sir Nicholas le Strange, bart. and Ann, the daughter of Sir Edward Lewnor, knt. who died July 5, 1722, aged 86.—Also of—William le Strange, gent. fourth brother of the said John, who died October 8, 1711, aged 73.—And also of—Edward le Strange, gent. fifth brother, who died September 24, 1715, aged 75.—And of—Nicholas, son of the said Edward;—all interred in this church.*

In the chancel are also lately placed several grave-stones, one,—*In memory of Elizabeth, wife of John Neale, clerk, late widow of William Jegon, clerk, who died May 26, 1747, etat. 58.*

Another,—*In memory of Gibson Neale, gent. who died April 17, 1747, in his 59th year;—with the arms of Neale.—And for—Sarah, his wife, who died July 11, in her 57th year.*

Henry Bastard, gent. lord of the manor, died August 23, 1624, aged 62.

In the church-yard is raised on stone a curious lofty pillar for a cross, very antique, but the upper part of it is now broke off; and by it, on the north side,

side, a free stone altar-tomb, with a cross carved thereon, finely flowered and ornamented, probably in memory of some priest.

Mr. Glover founded a school here, depositing money in the hands of sir Edward Coke for the same, who bought a piece of copyhold land, and a house, which had but one single room, valued at 5s. per ann. and Mr. Ward, who died rector in 1744, built another room to it for the master to dwell in.

The church was anciently valued at thirty marks. The prior of Sporle had a pension therein, valued at six marks per ann. Joan, wife to Henry IV. and queen dowager, died seized of it in the 15th of Henry VI. The present value is 11l. 2s. 1d. and pays first-fruits, &c.

The rectors were presented by the earls of Arundel till 1565, when sir Thomas Gresham, knt. was patron, after whom the Barnwells got the presentation, and so continue.

In 1753 the Rev. Richard Drake was presented to the rectory of Mileham by the late Rev. Charles Barnwell; and in 1775 he was a second time presented by Charles Barnwell, esq. now lord and patron, who has an elegant seat in the village, at which he resides. Edward Davy, esq. also resides at his seat in this village.

There was in the possession of Mr. Forby, formerly rector of Beeston, an ancient book, or roll, of all the good benefactors to the first building of the church of Mileham, and therein,—“Ye shall also pray and beseech for the soul of sir Walter Barnard, priest, the which purchased the freedom and customs of
of

of the town, gave and get much good to the town, wherefore God yield it to him at his most need, and send him part of all his good prayers."—We take the tomb in the church-yard to be in memory of this Walter, and that he also erected this cross.

In this town are great remains (as appears from the ditches, entrenchments, &c.) of a curious and noble castle built by Alan, son of Flaald, to whom the Conqueror gave this great manor, honor, and barony, who was ancestor of the Fitz-Alans, earls of Arundel, &c.

Mileham is a considerable village, lying on the road from Norwich by Lenwade-bridge, twenty-two miles; to Lynn-Regis nineteen miles: here the river Nar, which runs westward into the Ouse, at Lynn, and a rivulet running eastward into the Wensum, at Worthing, arises. The country about Mileham is well improved, and rather woody, but very pleasant. Though that great luminary of the law, sir Edward Coke, received birth here, we shall not reiterate what we have said of him in Holkham, Titleshall, and other places, but refer our readers thereto.

KIRTLING, or KERTING. In the Conqueror's book of Doomsday we find a town, or place, of this name, held by Stigand in king Edward's time, and then in the Conqueror's hand, and farmed, or took care of for him, by William de Noiers; it was valued with Stigand's manor of Mileham, then in king Edward's hands, who afterwards gave it, with the manor of Mileham, to Alan, son of Flaald, ancestor of the earls of Arundel.

The monks of Castle Acre held two parts of the tithes of William de Kirtling in the reign of Henry III.

This manor, or place, was valued in Mileham, as a beruite to it, and probably stood near to that town in this hundred, (where it is mentioned by the survey) and as we find it named with certain other gifts in this hundred to the priory of Castle Acre, we have thought it proper here to insert it.

William de Greffinghall gave six acres of land in Kirtling, with the rent of 8d. per ann. to the said priory; and William Hunter, of Greffinghall, gave six acres in Kirtling, and the rent of 8d. per ann.

OXWICK, called anciently OSSUIC, deriving its name from its scite on a wick, or turn of a stream, or rivulet, called Ouse, as many rivers were in Norfolk, &c. from whence the inhabitants were stiled the Icenii, was a lordship belonging to the abbot of Ely, founded by St. Audrey, valued in the whole at 20s. per ann. Rainald, son of Ivo, held it of the abbot, but before of the king.

This was in the family of the Earlhams, of Earham, by Norwich. In the 3d of Edward I. Ralph de Earham claimed, as lord, the assize of bread and beer, &c. of his tenants here; and in the 10th of Edward I. William Sygar, of Oxwick, had an interest herein, they agreeing to present alternately; so that the lordship seems to consist of two parts, or moieties; and in 1315 Nicholas Sygar, and Ralph de Earham, were returned to be lords.

In the year 1389 Thomas Croft, of this town, granted to John de Burton, &c. the manor of Oxwick,

wick, called Sygar's. with the advowson of the church; and in 1390 John Payne, of Helhoughton, released to John de Burton his right in the said manor and advowson, and Henry Maupas presented to the church in 1398.

In the 4th of Henry VI. William Billingsford, esq. was lord, and presented in 1438.

In the 13th of Edward IV. Geoffrey Rigby conveyed it to Henry Heydon, esq. who presented in 1481; after this it came to the Townshends, fir Roger Townshend, knt. presenting in 1542, and was sold by Roger Townshend, esq. to Thomas Barsham, esq. in the reign of queen Elizabeth.

In the year 1662 Samuel Smith, of Colkirk, was lord, and presented. On his death he left four daughters and coheiresses; and in 1712 Thomas Bendish, esq. was lord. In 1740 Henry Kelfall, esq. of the treasury, was lord and patron, who sold it to lord viscount Townshend, whose son, George, the present lord viscount Townshend, is lord.

The tenths were 46s. 10d. Deducted 4s. 2d. Remained 42s. 8d.

The temporalities of Normanburgh priory were valued in 1428 at 14s. 6d.—of Fakenham-dam 5s. 5d.—of Coxford priory 3s. 9d.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is a rectory, formerly valued at ten marks; the present value is 6l. 9s. 2d. and pays no first-fruits, or tenths.

In 1741, and 4, Mr. John Sparrow, merchant, in London, presented; and in 1768 the Rev. William

lian Barnwell was presented to this rectory by the Rev. Charles Barnwell, of Mileham, *p. j.*

In or about the year 1760 a silver seal was ploughed up near Snoring, curiously engraved, and a fine impress, and well ornamented, about the size of a shilling; in the centre of it is a small shield, with three oxes heads, and this legend:—*SIGILL. THOME. DE. OXWYC.*—This is now in the hands of Charles Barnwell, esq. of Mileham.

PATTESLY, or **PATESLEY**, though rated along with Oxwick, and adjoining, is consolidated with the vicarage of Mattishall, in the hundred of Mitford, and deanry of Hingham.

King William on his conquest granted this town to lord Peter de Valoines, and Roger held it under him at the survey. Alesan, a free-man, was owner of it in king Edward's reign, when it was accounted a manor, valued at 20s. per ann. It was four furlongs long, and two broad, and paid 3d. gelt. The soc belonged to the king's manor of Mileham.

In the reign of Henry I. when lord Peter de Valoines founded the priory of Binham, Roger, a knight of his, gave two parts of his tithes in this town to that priory. This was likely that Roger who held it under lord Peter at the survey, and was ancestor of the family of de Pottesley, lords of the town; Herbert de Pottesley was living in the 9th of king John.

About the 52d of Henry III. Hamo de Pottesley held it by the fourth part of a fee, with messuages, lands, and rents, in Oxwick, Tittleshall, Caldwell, Rainham, Whissonset, and Tofts. This family continued

tinued lords here for some time, and had the advowson of the church.]

In the 10th of Richard II. sir Walter Fitz-Walter (whose ancestor married Gunnora, daughter and heiress of Robert lord Valoines) was found to be the capital lord of the fee, and to hold in this town, Tittleshall, Godwick, Wellingham, Whiffonset, &c. one fee belonging to his manor of Hempnall, in Norfolk.

From one of the daughters and coheiresses of the Pottesleys it came to William de Breton, who presented in 1351, and in 1388, as did Nicholas Breton in 1391; but in the 3d of Henry IV. 1401, Ellen, Joan, and Catherine, daughters and coheiresses of William Breton, held the before-mentioned fourth part of a fee, or manor.

After this it seems to be in several hands, John Sutton presenting in 1405, Henry Carmely, or Carman, in 1408, 1409, and 1431, and John Schaymnes, who likely married the three daughters and coheiresses of Breton, and having each a part, or share, in this lordship, are stiled in the institution books *domicelli*. But it returned to the Pottesleys soon after the last presentation of Henry Carman, and Hamo de Pottesley died seised of it, and the advowson, in 1438, when it is said that he held it *in capite* by the 20th part of a fee; and John Pottesley, citizen and alderman of London, was his cousin and heir; he was sheriff of London in 1432, and lord mayor in 1440, being then a knight, and died lord of this manor in 1449; his widow presented to this church December 26, 1460.

In the 9th of Edward IV. John Seaman, William Carman, William Bulman, and Roger Richers, conveyed to John and Henry Heydon, Thomas Boleyn, &c.

&c. this manor and advowson, with fixty acres of land, and Henry Heydon, esq. presented in 1484.

Sir Christopher Heydon, of Baconsthorpe, in the hundred of South Erpingham, gave it in the reign of queen Elizabeth, together with the advowson, to Caius College, in Cambridge, and the said college exchanged the manor with sir Roger Townshend, knt. of Rainham, for the manor of D'Engains, in Feversham, in Cambridgeshire, and Stow-Qui, and kept the patronage, which they enjoy at this time, the manor being in lord viscount Townshend; here is only the manor-house remaining, wherein a farmer lives. The tenths were 1l. 12s.

The lordship of the Hauvills, of Dunton, and Rainham, extended into this town, and Thomas de Hauvill paid a relief for lands here, held by castle-guard, to Norwich castle in the 35th of Edward I.

“ Pat, or Pet, (says Mr. Parkin) is the name of several little rivers, and gives name to this, and to many towns, viz. Peteswick, in Essex; Pateshall, in Northamptonshire; Pat, or Petworth, in Suffex, &c.”

The church was dedicated to St. John Baptist, and was a rectory, anciently valued at 40s. it was called a *secure* in the year 1521, and no church was standing in 1571; the present value is 8l. 18s. 8d.

In 1743 the lately deceased Rev. Dr. Henry Goodall was presented to the vicarage of Patesly, consolidated with Mattishall, by the master and fellows of Caius College, Cambridge.

ROUGHAM,

ROUGHAM* is a considerable village and post town on the road from Fakenham to Swaffham.

ROUGHAM MANOR. William earl Warren held in Rougham, and Fransham *Magna*, a very considerable lordship, which Toke, a Saxon thane, or free man, possessed in the reign of king Edward.

This was soon afterwards held of the earl Warren by several persons, and divided into small fees, or lordships.

Hugh de Fochigetune, or Folkinton, gave to the monks of Castle Acre two parts of the tithe of his demesne in Rucham in all things, viz. in corn, (*garbis*) lambs, wool, hemp, and in whatever tithe is due.

Juliana, daughter of William de Wirmele, patroness of the church of St. Mary de Rougham, with the assent of William, her son and heir, confirmed to the monks a moiety of all the tithe of her demesne lands, as well ploughed as hereafter to be ploughed, and of her small tithe belonging to her patronage, in pure alms, without date.

William Harawein confirmed the ancient church of St. Mary de Rougham, which was built on his fee, with an half acre of land on the west side of it, to the priory of Westacre; this William is sometimes called William de Rucham, or Rougham.

Sir Richard Butler, of Rougham, knt. as lord, confirmed a grant of lands to the said monks, by deed without date; and a descendent of this William

I

le

* It is wrote in Doomsday-book Rukham.

le Botiler, of Rougham, in the 52d of Henry II. held a knight's fee, and though of age was not a knight, which proves that all who held a fee were *obliged*, when of age, to take upon them that degree. Besides these it appears, that the family of Rougham was very soon after the conquest enfeoffed in part of this village. Alexander de Rougham paid 40s. in the 27th of Henry II. to bring his plea in the king's court against the earl of Arundel, and Robert de Mortimer.

In the 11th of Edward II. Richard de Rougham conveyed lands to Richard Fitz-John, of Massingham; and in the 9th of that reign Alice de Rougham was returned to be lady of a manor, mother, most likely, of Richard aforesaid, who dying without issue male, Alice, his daughter, or sister, was married to John Read. Before this the Reads had an interest in this town; for in the 1st of Edward II. John Read, and Ralph, his son, held lands here.

John Read, by Alice de Rougham, had a son, Richard, who married Margaret, sister and heiress of Richard Hooker, whose daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, brought the manor of Rougham to John Yelverton, esq. a family of great antiquity in the county of Norfolk, taking their name from the town of Yelverton, in the hundred of Henstead, where they had possessions soon after the conquest; they had also great possessions in Rackheath and Saxthorpe.

This John Yelverton had, by Elizabeth, sir William Yelverton, judge of the King's-bench in 1444, and before this under steward of the Duchy of Lancaster, in Norfolk, justice of the peace and gaol delivery in the bishop of Ely's liberty of Mitford hundred, and knight of the bath in 1460; by Jane, his first wife,
daughter

daughter of sir Oliver 'le Gros, was father of John Yelverton, esq. of the body to king Edward IV. who married Margery, daughter and heiress of William Morley, esq. who were both living in the 36th year of Henry VI. He died July 9, 1481, and left William Yelverton, their son, married to Ann, daughter of John Paston, esq. of Paston, by whom he had William Yelverton, who died without issue, and Amy, married to John, or James Elmes, esq.

The eldest branch being thus extinct, we return to his offspring by his second wife, Ela, or Agnes, daughter of sir Thomas Brewes, of Topcroft, in Norfolk, by whom the judge had several sons; 1st William, 2d John, 3d Thomas, 4th Nicholas, 5th Edward, 6th Adam, and a daughter, Ann, married to Adam, Cam, of Weasenham.

William, the eldest son, married (as the Peerage relates) a daughter of sir James Hewet, lord mayor of London; but it does not appear that there was any one of that name lord mayor of London.

This William Yelverton, esq. and Catherine, his wife, were living in 1459, and in the 13th of Edward IV. From the writings of this family, and from his grave-stone in the church, it seems that he married Catherine, daughter of Henry Spelman, esq. of Stow-Beccles, by whom he had a son, William, whose three sons were, Henry, the first, William, the second, who was a knight, and lived in Ireland, and Christopher, the third son, who was a knight, and lord chief justice of the King's-bench in the reign of queen Elizabeth, and from whom descended the Yelvertons, lords Grey, of Ruthyn, and earls of Suffex.

Henry Yelverton, esq. of Rougham, the eldest son, married Bridget, daughter of sir William Drury, of Hawstead, in Suffolk, and was father of William Yelverton, esq. of Rougham, created baronet May 31, 1620; by Dionysia, his wife, daughter and coheiress of Richard Stubbs, esq. of Sedgeford, he had sir William Yelverton, bart. his son and heir, and sir Henry Yelverton, knt. who married Alice, daughter and heiress to Dr. William Barlow, bishop of Lincoln, and died without issue.

Sir William, by Ursula, his wife, daughter of sir Thomas Richardson, lord chief justice of the King's-bench, left a son and heir, sir William Yelverton, bart. and two daughters, Elizabeth and Ursula, and died in 1648, July 19; his lady, Ursula, survived him, dying in 1657, March 20, and also her only son and heir, sir William Yelverton, bart. who died without issue, November 15, 1649, so that by his death this family and honor became extinct.

Ursula, his youngest sister and coheiress, married the Rev. Mr. Shipdham, and Elizabeth married Thomas Peyton, esq. fourth son of sir Edward Peyton, of Illeham, in Cambridgeshire, and was father of, first, William Peyton, esq. of Dublin, in Ireland, who died about 1686, and left by Frances, his wife, daughter of sir Herbert Lunsford, knt. a daughter, Elizabeth, who died young; second, Robert Peyton, living in Virginia in 1692; third, Charles Peyton, who married Elizabeth, daughter of William Bladwell, esq. of Swannington, and there buried; fourth, Yelverton Peyton, of Rougham, esq. who married Hannah, daughter of sir John Roberts; also a daughter, Ann, married to Thomas Woods, of Bracon-Ash, esq.

The Roughams' estate, being possessed by Thomas Peyton aforesaid, he mortgaged, and afterwards sold it to sir John Bladwell, brother of William Bladwell before-mentioned; this sir John living in one part of the hall, and Thomas Peyton in the other, a friendship was contracted between them, and sir John at his death gave this manor, &c. to Yelverton Peyton, fourth son of Thomas aforesaid, who sold it to the honorable Roger North, esq. (sixth son of Dudley, lord North) in 1690, who made great improvements in the hall, and in the lands, by planting, inclosing, &c. By his wife, daughter of sir ——— Gayer, of Stoke-Pogeys, in Bucks, he had Roger North, esq. whose son, Fountaine North, esq. is the present lord.

GREEN'S-HALL, *alias* FINCHAM'S. Juliana, daughter of William, son of Richard de Wirmele, (as hath been observed) held a part of the earl Warren's fee, and was patroness of the church; this part descended to the Botilers, of Rougham, and it appears that there had been a controversy between the prior and convent of Castle Acre, and that of Westacre, rectors of this parish, (as they are stiled, by which it seems that there were two moities in this church) concerning the tithes of all the demesnes which formerly belonged to sir Richard de Botiler, appertaining to Castle Acre, which tithes the said prior, &c. agreed and granted in 1301 to the prior of Westacre, for ever, who covenanted to pay 30s. per ann. for the same to the convent of Castle Acre.

In the 3d and 9th of Edward II. this was possessed by Richard Atte-Green, who had the assize of bread and beer, and other royalties; and in the 20th of Edward III. John Atte-Green, John le Donne, and their parceners, held one fee in this town, and Fran-

sham, of the heirs of John de Gatefend, and he of the earl Warren, which William le Botiler formerly held.

This came afterwards to the Finchams; William Fincham, of Rougham, died in 1461, and was buried in the church. Edmund Fincham, his son, was buried in the south porch of this church in 1471, and died lord of Green's-hall.

The Yelvertons seem to be the next lords of it; William Yelverton, esq. was possessed of it, and his son, Henry, in the 32d of Elizabeth: in this family it remained, and being united to the manor of Rougham before mentioned, passed with that, as is there observed.

In the 3d of Edward III. William de Brisfingham, and Clement de Cressingham, held lordships here under the earl Warren, and had assize of bread and beer and other royalties of their tenants.

In the 1st year of Henry IV. Ralph Bedingham, and Edward Hunt, chaplain, held one knight's fee, with their parceners, in this town, and Fransham, of the heirs of John Cudsdien, and he of the earl Warren's fee, now of the Duchy of Lancaster. This also soon after came to the Yelvertons, and was conveyed and passed as before observed.

Godric at the survey farmed, or kept, a lordship in this town, belonging to the Conqueror; and Alwin, a free-man, had a carucate and an half in the time of king Edward, always valued at 3s. The whole was in the soc of Stigand, and belonging to his manors, or farms, in the days of king Edward. After that Ralph Waiher, earl Warren, had it, and on his forfeiture

feiture Godric held it, when it was valued at 60s. per ann. being seven furlongs long, and six broad, and paid 20d. gelt.

This lordship, which was held by Stigand the archbishop, with that of Mileham, in the Confessor's time, was granted soon after this account of it in the survey, with that of Mileham, to Alan, son of Flaald, by William the Conqueror, from whom descended the noble family of the Fitz-Alans, earls of Arundel; and in the 3d of Edward I. it was found to be in the said family, lords also of Mileham, who had the assize of bread and beer, and other royalties, in this town. In the 14th of Richard II. John de Cressingham held lands of the earl of Arundel; and in the 13th of Henry VI. the earl of Arundel held it of the king *in capite*; this came into the Yelverton family, and was conveyed with the manor of Rougham.

Hermerus de Ferrarijs had a small lordship, as we find in Doomsday-book, possessed by Fulbert, to which there belonged a carucate then, but at the survey only half a carucate; but the other half might be recovered, valued at 10s. per ann. the soc was in Mileham, and belonged then to the king; Fulbert* was lord in his own right in the time of king Edward, and now held it under Hermerus, who was ancestor of the lords Bardolph, of Wormegay.

Sir Pain de Tiptoft, knt. was lord of it, and enfeoffed John, son of John de Drayton, therein; and one of the same name held it in or about the time of

I 4

Edward

* But the soc, the chief power, the court baron, &c. belonged to the king's manor of Mileham: this Fulbert was also a priest, and the same who in the account of Norwich, in Doomsday-book, is called "Fulbertus quidam sacerdos Hermeri," and held then a house in Norwich.

Edward III. by the tenth part of a fee, of lord Bardolph; this also was united, and passed as before, in the Yelvertons.

Alan earl of Richmond had a manor in Mileham which extended into this town; and in the 3d of Henry IV. Ralph de Bedingham, and John Yelverton, held it by the third part of a fee, which was held in the 8th of Edward I. with other lands in Mileham, Ling, &c. by one fee and an half, and by a quarter of a fee, paying 25s. per ann. to the ward of Richmond-castle.

The temporalities of the priory of Westacre in 1428 were valued at 4s. per ann.—Coxford at 1d.—West Dereham 12d.—Peterston 4s.—and Castle Acre 16s.

By the register of Castle Acre we find many others were benefactors, by their deeds without date; all which coming to the crown on the dissolution of that priory, it seems to be granted to Robert Hogan, who held lands here *in capite* of Henry VIII.

The tenths of the town were 8l. 5s.—Deduct 2l. 5s.—Remain 6l.

The church was dedicated to St. Mary, and being a rectory appropriated to the priory of Westacre, a vicarage was settled, valued at eleven marks, the rectory at thirty marks, and the vicarage was in the presentation of the said convent.

Henry prior of Westacre had confirmed to him the appropriation of this church, first appropriated by Ralph Walpole, bishop of Norwich, and in the time of king Edward confirmed also by his immediate successor,

cessor, John Salmon: the bull of pope Nicholas is cited, wherein it is set forth, "that the monastery of Westacre had been lately burnt down, and therefore the bishop gave licence in 1303, and a composition was then made, that the vicar should have all the mortuaries, four quarters of corn, two of wheat, and two of barley, the herbage of the church-yard, and the chapel annexed."

In the 2d of Elizabeth the impropriate rectory, which on the dissolution of Westacre priory came to the crown, was granted, July 8, to Richard Nicholls. The present value of the vicarage is 28s. 5d. and the patronage is in the crown, and pays no first-fruits, or tenths.

In 1736 the Rev. Christopher Sealby had this vicarage of the crown by sequestration.—Aug. 2001. 1766.

The spiritualities of Castle Acre priory in 1428 were valued at 40s. per ann.

At the west end of the steeple is a broken crucifix of stone, and seems to have been well performed.

On the pavement of the chancel lie several grave-stones;—*Orate p. a'ia Joh. Swaffham, quonda' vicarij hujus ecclie, qui ob. anno Dni. millmo CCCC. nonagesimo 9^o. cuj. &c.*

One with the arms of North, azure, a lion passant or. between three lys, argent;—*Hic jacet Montague North, filius natu quintus prænobilis Dudlej d'ni North, baronis de Kirtling, ob. apud Rougham, 27 Sept. 1710.*

One with the portraitures of two infants in brass;
—*Obitus Joh. Yelverton, 1505.*—*Obitus Rogeri Yel-*
verton, 1510.

On a grave-stone at the east end of the chancel is the effigy of a man between his two wives; under his first wife, on his right hand, the portraitures of ten children in brass, and under the other six children; the plate whereon was the epitaph is torn off, but by the arms it appears to be—*In memory of William Yelverton, esq. and his two wives, Ann, daughter of Fermour, and Jane, daughter of Cocket;—over him, on a plate, the arms of Yelverton, and of his wives.*

On the north side of the chancel is an aile, or chapel, and in it a grave-stone,—*In memory of Elizabeth Peyton, daughter of Sir William Yelverton, and Ursula, his wife, the heirefs of that family, who died June 15, 1668.*

One with the arms of Yelverton impaling Richardson;—*Sir William Yelverton, bart. of Rougham, died July 19, 1648; and Ursula, daughter of Thomas lord Richardson, his wife, March 20, 1657.*—Also,—*Sir William Yelverton, bart. their only son, who died November 15, 1649, without issue.*

One with the arms of Bladwell;—*Here lies interred Sir John Bladwell, the eldest son of William Bladwell, of Swannington, esq. he endowed the vicarage of this town with a good house, and some land adjoining to it; he died October 14, 1680, aged 64.*

On a stone with the portraitures of one in brass, with his lady, seven sons, and a daughter,—*In memory of William Yelverton, esq. eldest son of sir William Yelverton, the judge, by his second wife, obi. 9 die Julij,*
anno

anno a nativitate Christi 1481;—the brass shields with the arms are torn off, &c. but on a plate there remain some Latin verses.

In the said aisle is a low altar-tomb, with the effigies of one in armor, and his lady, in memory of the judge, and on a plate,—*Orate p. a'iab; Willelmi Yelverton, militis et quonda' justici' domini regis de suo Banco. et domine Agnetis uxor' sue, qui quide' Willelmo obiit, 27 die Martis* ———.

In a north window are the ancient arms of the family of Rougham.

The church is a single building, covered with lead; at the west end is a square steeple, with two bells; the chancel is thatched, and has a chapel, or north aisle. It appears that there was formerly a north aisle to the church, and on the south side of the church there is a library built by the late Mr. North, and furnished with books by his own and other benefactions. At a distance from the church, to the south, was an old chapel, now called *The Chapel-barn*.

“ Rough, or Row, gives name to several towns, to this, and one in Suffolk, &c. and to an hamlet, called Rougholm, or Rowholm, in Gressenhall, to Rowhampton, in Surrey, to Roughton, or Rowston, in Lincolnshire, &c.—*Parkin*.”

Rougham is the seat of Fountaine North, esq. the house and plantations are spacious, and the situation remarkably healthy. The country hereabouts is light and airy, and the lands require the most skilful management in agriculture.

SCARNING.

SCARNING, wrote in Doomsday-book Scerninga. The principal lordship of this village was held by Fredric, a free-man, or Saxon thane, in the reign of Edward the Confessor; but on the conquest was granted to William earl Warren; it was valued at 30s. his predecessor had only the protection of it, but their predecessors had the soc.

SCARNING-HALL. This was possessed by the family of de Fransham; and sir William de Fransham (a descendent of Gilbert, who was enfeoffed herein by the earl Warren) in the 3d of Edward I. held here, and in Great Fransham, one fee of earl Warren. Jeffrey de Fransham, esq. dying in 1414 without issue, left his five sisters his coheiresses, and the greatest part of his inheritance here was settled on Alice, his second, and on Agatha, his fifth sister and coheirefs. Alice married ——— de Thuxton, by whom she had Theobald de Thuxton, who left five daughters and coheiresses. Agatha married ——— Arnold, who with her sister, Alice, had an equal moiety of this manor.

Edmund Swathing, esq. son of William, who married the third sister and coheirefs of Jeffrey de Fransham, having purchased three of the five parts of the moiety of this lordship, with that of Dillington, presented in their right to the rectory of this church in 1423, and Thomas Sharington, grandson by a daughter and heirefs of Edmund Swathing, held the same in the 19th of Henry VII.

In 1434 Thomas Arnold, of Rollesby, and Henry Sharington, of East Dereham, in right of their moieties of this manor, presented.

After

After this the two moieties of the two sisters before-mentioned seem to be united and possessed by Roger Townshend, esq. who presented in 1509, and in 1537, being then a knight, and sir Roger Townshend knt. was lord in 1595; but in 1597 Edmund Anguish was lord and patron, who purchased it of the Townshends.

In 1723 Richard Warner, esq. was lord, and presented to the rectory: on his death in 1757, and a division of his estate, it came to John Conyers, esq. of Essex, by the marriage of Hannah, one of his daughters and coheiresses.

This manor, together with the estate, and other manors, late Richard Warner's, esq. were lately sold and conveyed by the Conyers family to John Lombe, esq. of Great Melton, who is now lord of the several manors, sole patron of the living, impropiator of a moiety of the rectorial tithes, and owner of a considerable part of the parish.

NORTHERN, or NORTHEND-HALL, GUNTON's, or WENDLING ABBEY MANOR. This manor belonged to the earl Warren's fee, and was situated at the north end of the town; the family of the de Skernings, or Scarnings, were ancient lords of it, and Alexander de Scarning settled by fine in the 8th of Edward II. nine messuages, a toft, 106 acres of land, eight of meadow, eight of pasture, and 36s. rent per ann. on John de Gunton.

In the 52d of Henry III. the abbot of Wendling, and his successors, had five messuages, eighty-seven acres of land, one mill, and 10s. rent settled: this, with other lands given, made up the manors of Northern-hall, and Gunton's, in Scarning Parva, all
which

which belonged to Wendling abbey, and was granted by Henry VIII. in his 35th year, to Robert Hogan, esq. to be held by knight's service, by patent, dated November 1; he died seised of it November 4, in the 1st of Edward VI. leaving Thomas, his son and heir, who with Susan, his wife, by licence under the great seal, dated March 20, in the 2d year of the said king, aliened them to Thomas and Richard Hoo, father and son, who then resided at Burnham-Overy, and Richard having the manor of Barry's, in East Tuddenham, they made that their residence; this family was descended from Robert Hoo, third son of sir William Hoe, by Alice, daughter of sir Thomas St. Omer.

This Richard Hoo, of Scarning, esq. left by Alice, his wife, two daughters and coheiresses, Elizabeth, married to John Games, gent. second son of sir John Games, of Newton, in Brecknockshire; and Roberta, married to Francis Steward, third son of John Steward, esq. of Braughing, in Hertfordshire, and of Marham, in Norfolk, by whom he had Hoo Steward, esq. a bencher of Gray's-Inn, London, who sold his moiety of this lordship to alderman Farrington, of London, who presented to this church in 1690.

John Games, by Elizabeth, his wife, left three daughters and coheiresses; Florence, married to Richard Lucy, clerk, of St. David's, in Wales; Elizabeth, married to Thomas Walker, esq. of Gray's-Inn, counsellor at law; and Catherine, who was not married in 1689: they all joined and conveyed their moiety of this lordship to Oliver le Neve, esq. in the said year, with the impropriate rectory and advowson of the vicarage, who sold the same in 1701 to Humphrey Prideaux, D. D. afterwards dean of Norwich.

WALTHAM ABBEY MANOR. William de Skerning, Skerling, or Scarning, gave to this abbey his messuage and lands, held of Gilbert de Fransham by 2s. rent, and his land held of William de Drayton, in this town, by 4d. rent. Of this family was Alexander de Skerning, who married Nichola, daughter and heiress of Roger le Strange, about the 34th of Henry III.

Thomas, son of Baldwin, gave them lands at the church, the house, called Stubbes, and lands called Sponeſbergh.—Ralph, son of Peter, gave them lands.—Roger de Freville gave them his meadow between the chapel of St. Botolph and Sponeſbergh.

William de Drayton gave them the moiety of the church, saving all dues to the bishop, and a competent support for a vicar to celebrate, in that moiety, and there being a controversy between the rector and the abbot about houses and barns near the church, they exchanged one with the other; and about the tithes of the abbot's moiety, the rector remits them wholly to the abbot, and the said abbot gave to St. Catherine, and the nuns of Blackborough, all the tithes of their free land, and of the land which was William de Scarnings.

Pope Innocent the third confirmed to them their right in this church, that no tithes should be exacted of the lands they held, dated 1198; and Henry III. in his 37th year, granted them, March 30, free-warren here.

At the dissolution of this abbey the possessions thereto belonging, and the impropriate rectory, with the patronage of the vicarage, were granted, September 9, to sir William Fermour, who July 24 following,

lowing, in the 37th of Henry VIII. conveyed them to Richard Hoo, of Scarning, gent. and so came to Games, and Steward, &c.

Part of this town was a lordship, or beruite, belonging to the earl Warren's manor of Greffenhall. Wimer held it at the survey, and it was valued with Greffenhall, and had the same capital lords. John de Lacy, and Thomas de Earlham, held it of Richard Foliot in the time of Edward I. and John Poynter, and John Sterling, of the Hastings, in the 3d of Henry IV. and this was the manor that William Aggas, gent. died possessed of in 1458.

Ralph lord Baynard had a small fee, or lordship, belonging to his capital manor of East Bradtenham, in South Greenhoe hundred, but the soc was in Mileham manor. Roger de Huntingfield held it in the reign of king John, and withdrew it from the hundred suit after the war commenced between that king and his barons. It remained in this family in the 7th of Edward II.

Ann Hungate sold lands here, and in East Bradtenham, held *in capite*, to sir Francis Bacon in the 13th of James I. and in 1659 Henry Hungate, esq. had an estate here of 100l. per ann. as then taxed.

BRAYTON-HALL was part of Ralph de Beaufoe's lordship in East Dereham, and Swanton-Morley, at the survey, and extended into this village; it took its name from its ancient lords, and it was seated in a close that retains its name.

By Agnes and Alice, the daughters and coheiresses of William de Drayton, (had by a fine in the 14th of Henry III.) this lordship, went to William Lanveisey,

Lanveisey, and William de Bellemont, in the 14th of Henry III. he granted to Roger de Beefton, of Scarning, common with his cattle (*averijs*) any where in the common pasture in Scarning, called Toftwoodhill, for a certain messuage situate in Brendwode.

In the 39th of Edward III. William Catts was lord, and paid 3s. 9d. per ann. to lord Morley, lord of Hockering, and to the lord of the hundred 2s. leet fee, 22d. mote rent, and suit of court to the hundred at Easter, and St. Michael; and in the 13th of Henry VII. September 8, sir Henry Heydon conveyed it to William Bardwell, jun. esq. in exchange for the manor of Witchingham, in Salthouse and Kelling, and Robert Bardwell, esq. his son and heir, was lord in the 3d of Henry VIII.

March 4, in the 4th of Henry VIII. sir Robert Southwell sold to William Wotton all his right in the wardship, custody, and marriage of Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Robert Bardwell, esq. by virtue of a grant to him from sir Edward Howard, held of the said Edward in right of lady Morley, his wife; and John Wotton, of North Tuddenham, esq. who married the said Elizabeth, died seised of it November 14, in the 37th of the aforesaid king: about this time it appears that there belonged to it 200 acres of land, 40 of meadow, 200 of pasture, 60 of wood, 200 of moor, and 6l. rent per ann. in this town and Dillington.

Ann, the only daughter and heiress of John Wotton, and Elizabeth, his wife, married, first, sir Thomas Woodhouse, secondly, Henry Reppes, esq. by whom she had no issue; and about 1555 she married Bassingbourne Gawdy, esq. second son of sir Thomas Gawdy, serjeant at law; and Thomas Hoo, esq. resigned to

K

him

him all his right in 26s. 8d. rent in the 3d of Elizabeth, issuing out of this lordship, payable to that of Northern-hall, &c. Afterwards it was possessed by the Reppes, of Mattishall, and by Richard Warner, esq. who died seised of it in 1757, and by his daughter and coheiress was brought to — Conyers, from whom it was sold to John Lombe, esq. of Great Melton.

The temporalities of Carrowe abbey in 1428 were charged at 3l. 4d.—Wendling abbey 22s. ob. Here were *concealed* lands in the 16th of Elizabeth.

“ The town takes its name from Scar, a rivulet that arises in this parish, and ing, that is, meadows on the Scar; thus we find Scargill (the rivulet of the Scar) in Yorkshire; Scars-Dale, in Derbyshire; Scarle, in Nottinghamshire, &c.”—*Parkin*.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and contained two medieties, one in the patronage of the Franshams, lords of the manor, and the other appropriated to the abbey of Waltham; the first mediety was called the portion of Hugh de Fransham, which was valued at twenty marks, he being rector of it when it was thus taxed in 1256; the present value is 9l. 1d. ob. and pays first-fruits and tenths.

In the reign of Henry II. Robert de Skerning, who was formerly rector of this church, and lord of a fee, gave the tithes of his fee to the church of Norwich, without any diminution; and Richard, his son, farmed the said tithes of the monks of Norwich for 6s. per ann.

The

The rectors were presented by the Franshams, and the vicars by the abbot and convent of Waltham, in Essex.

The vicarage moiety of the church was given by William de Drayton to Waltham abbey, by deed without date, lord of Drayton-hall; it was valued at twenty marks as a rectory, and was appropriated to the said abbey; a vicarage being settled, now charged at 9l. 19s. 2d. and is discharged of first-fruits and tenths.

In 1235 the vicar had all the altarage of the said church, and to sustain all episcopal and archidiaconal charges due and customary, to keep residence, and the said abbot and convent at all times shall present the vicar to the ordinary of the place.

The two medieties were consolidated about 1712; and in 1741 the Rev. Richard Tapps, of Norwich, was presented to the rectory and vicarage of Scarning by the late Richard Warner, esq. of Elmham. The Rev. Robert Potter, master of the grammar-school here, was licensed curate in 1763.

The church is a single pile, without any aisle, and has a strong square tower of flint-stone, &c. about seventy-five feet high, with five tuneable bells, and a chancel.

By the communion-table, in the chancel, lie several grave-stones: on one a shield; Browne impaling Repps;—*For Richard Browne, gent. obiit Aug. 18, 1704, ætat. 62.*—A stone near this,—*For Mary, his wife, daughter of John Repps, of Mattishall, esq. who died April 16, 1708, aged 63.*

One,—*In memory of Barbara, wife of John Browne, gent. daughter of le Estrange Mordaunt, of Congham, esq. who died May 19, 1714, aged 36;—with the arms of Browne impaling Mordaunt.*

Several grave-stones in memory of the Blackhalls, and for—*Ann Blackhall, wife of Edward Blackhall, gent. who died January 23, 1687, aged 55.*

For—*John Batch, gent. who died May 12, 1704, aged 38, and for Elizabeth Batch, who died January 24, 1712, aged 53.——Also for—Edward Batch, gent. who died September 2, 1680.*

A mural monument by the east window, with the effigy of an infant in alabaster,—*In memory of Edward Games, an infant, son of John Games, of London, esq. who died in 1623,—with a shield; Games impaling Hoo.*

On a grave-stone in the church,—*Hic jacet in spe beatæ resurrectionis Thomas Brett, gen. Nofolciens. necnon grammatices, ----- archidiaconus: denatus prid. kal. Feb. 1691, æt. 41.*

On a brass plate,—*Orate p. anima Johannis Russell, qui obt. 1507. Depositum Joh. Burton, A. M. viri, imprimis eruditi, hujus scholæ suo tempore celeberrimæ Nordovicensis demum magistri vigilantissimi 16 cal. Augusti, anno 1699, ætat. 70 defuncti.*

The spiritualities of the priory of Castle Acre were valued at 55s. per ann. In 1428 they had the tithes of a fee, and two parts of the tithes of the demesne, formerly of Gilbert de Fransham, and of Saer de Frevil; and the tithe of the assarts of Herringshaw, in the village and fields of Scarning, containing 252
acres

acres of land, more or less, lett in 1366 for 20s. of silver per ann.

The prioress of Blackborough had a portion of tithe valued at 10s. per ann. The rectory of Didlington had also a portion belonging to it of the said value, and the spiritualities of Norwich priory were one mark.

In 1514 it appears that there was a chapel here, dedicated to St. Botolph.

In this town is a free-school, well endowed, and pleasantly situated near the turnpike road from East Dereham, one mile, to Swaffham eleven: the village of Scarning lies more west, and the church stands on the north side of the road, two miles from Dereham.

STANFIELD, wrote in Doomsday-book Stanwelda, and Stanfelda. Thirty-three free-men held here two carucates of land under Stigand the archbishop of Canterbury, who had the soc and protection of them, to whom there belonged five borderers, with six acres of meadow, all which was possessed by William earl Warren at the survey. This was valued then at 3l. per ann. but the soc was in the king's manor of Mileham. The aforesaid free-men, &c. held with this, and in other places under Stigand, ten carucates.

This lordship came to the earl Warren on an exchange for lands at Lewes, in Suffex, and was held by Wimerus, the earl's *dapifer*, lord of Gressenhall, and by his posterity. Jordan Foliot was lord of it in the 15th of Edward I. and claimed free-warren. From the Foliots it came to the Hastings', and to the

le Stranges, the late sir Henry le Strange, bart. being lord and patron in 1756.

Alan earl of Richmond had six acres here, which, with lands in Mileham, were held by two socmen of Stigand, which the son of Almarus held under Alan earl of Richmond. The tenths of the town were 3l. 10s. Deducted 6s. 8d.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Margaret, has a long nave covered with lead, and a chancel tiled, with a square tower at the west end. The ancient value was ten marks; the present value in the king's books is 6l. 14s. 2d.

In 1756 the Rev. Ralf Bird was presented to the rectory of Stanfield by the late sir Henry le Strange, bart. of Hunstanton. Lady le Strange of Gressenhall, we presume, is now lady and patroness.

Stanfield church stands a little north of the road from Norwich, twenty-one miles, to Lynn twenty. The town lies between Brisley and Milcham.

SWANTON-MORLEY was the lordship of Ralph de Bellofago, or Beaufoe, at the survey, but in the Confessor's time Godric, a free-man, was possessed of it, when there were lands, &c. Eudo, son of Clama, formerly held it, but Ralph now, of the gift of the king; a church endowed with an acre and an half, valued at 2d. per ann. the manor was valued at 8l. per annum, afterwards at 12l. but after that Ralph farmed it out, or lett it, at 25l. it was one leuca long, and one broad, and paid 10d. gelt; by this it appears to be a large and valuable manor.

Ralph

“ The town, says Parkin, seems to take its name, as seated near the joining of two streams, or rivulets, probably called Suan, Swin, or Swan, thus, Swinehead, in Lincolnshire; Swinburn, in Northumberland; Swinbrook, in Oxfordshire; and Tua, (not Tuna) which I interpret the two rivers, or waters, and Morley-Swanton from its ancient lords.”

Ralph de Bellofago, or Beaufoe, was a near relation, if not son, of William de Beaufoe, bishop of Thetford, chaplain and chancellor to the Conqueror, and held at the survey forty-one lordships in this county.

Ralph de Beaufoe left a daughter and heiress, Agnes, who was married to Hubert de Rhye, castellan of Norwich-castle, who was son of Hubert de Rhye, according to Dugdale, “ a trusty servant to William duke of Normandy, and sent by him to king Edward the Confessor, when that king lay on his death bed, in a pompous equipage into England, and returned to his master with those tokens whereby he was by that king declared his heir to the crown of England, viz. a sword, in the hilt whereof were inclosed some relics of Saints, an hunter's horn of gold, and the head of a mighty stag; for which service he had the promise of being steward of his household.

Ralph was his eldest son, and made castellan of Nottingham; Hubert was his second son, and made governor of Norwich castle. A descendent, if not a grandson, of the aforesaid Hubert, was Hubert de Rhye, who in the 12th of Henry II. certified that he had thirty-five knight's fees, for which he paid thirty-five marks to the king; and dying without issue male in the 18th of the said king, his two

daughters and coheireffes were, Aliva, married to John Marshall, (nephew of William Marshall, earl of Pembroke) made marshal of Ireland by king John, in his 9th year; and Isabel, married to sir Roger de Cressie, widow of Jeffrey de Chester, which Jeffrey was probably a nephew to Robert Fitz-Roger, a great baron of Northumberland, who in the 1st of king John gave 300 marks for the younger daughter of Hubert aforesaid, to marry her unto a nephew of his.

In the 13th of king John, John Marshall answered for seventeen fees and an half; a moiety of the barony of Rhye, and was lord of this town: in this family it remained till John Marshall, son of William, dying in the 10th of Edward II. left Hawise, his sister and heirefs, married to sir Robert de Morley; he died seised also of Hingham, Hockering, Buxton, &c. and had free-warren, waif, view of frank-pledge, a ducking-stool, and assize of bread and beer, in this town.

It appears from ancient deeds that there was a park in this village, called Bywick park, and that Avelina le Mareschal in her widowhood, about the 40th of Henry III. granted the tithes of her mill of Suanetune, or Swanton, and of the eels taken at the mill and pools, to the priory of Norwich.

Sir Robert de Morley had livery of this lordship in the 10th of Edward II. was marshal of Ireland in right of his wife, Hawise, and truly famous for his many gallant actions both by sea and land; being lieutenant of Norfolk, and admiral of the king's fleet, obtained such a notable victory near Sluse, in Flanders, (as historians record it) that the like sea-fight was never before seen; he was also in the glorious battle of Cressy, in France, constable of the
Tower

Tower of London, summoned to parliament from the 11th of Edward II. to the 31st of Edward III. and died in the 34th of that king, then attending him in France, leaving sir William de Morley, his son and heir.

The last heir male of this noble family was Robert, son of Thomas lord Morley, and the lady Isabel, his wife, daughter of Michael De-la-Pole, earl of Suffolk, who dying in the 21st of Henry VI. left by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of William lord Roos, Alianore, his daughter and heiress, who afterwards married William Lovel, a younger son of lord Lovel, of Tichmarsh, who in her right was lord Morley, and inherited the estate of that family, and died seized of it July 23, 1475, leaving Henry Lovel, his son and heir, lord Morley; and in 1487 was slain at Dixmue, in Flanders, leaving no issue by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of John De-la-Pole duke of Suffolk, so that his estate descended to Alice, his only sister, wife of sir William Parker, of London, knt. who was lord of this town, &c. and on his death she remarried to sir Edward Howard, second son to Thomas duke of Norfolk.

Sir Henry Parker was son and heir to sir William; he was knight of the bath, and in 1529 summoned to parliament as lord Morley: sir Henry, his son and heir, had Henry lord Morley, who by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of Edward earl of Derby, had Edward, his son and heir, lord Morley, who married Elizabeth, sole heiress of William Stanley, lord Monteagle, fifth son to Thomas earl of Derby, and in her right was also lord Monteagle; he died April 1, 1618, and was buried in the church of Stepney, in Middlesex; but before his death sold most of the estate descended to him from the Morleys, lord Morley, and
this

this lordship, to fir Thomas Lovel, of Harling, and so to fir Henry Bedingfield, of Oxburgh, and Thomas Bedingfield, esq. died seised of it in the 32d of Elizabeth, in which family it was in the reign of Charles I.

In 1659 Guybon Goddard, esq. was lord, and charged in a militia rate in that year at 65l. per ann. for his manor and lands; he was serjeant at law, and recorder of Lynn; and in 1654 William Small, esq. of Hadleigh, in Suffolk, was lord, and gave 10l. per ann. towards the education of poor children, and binding out boys apprentices, born in this town, and settled lands for the same, called Eye-Park, in Suffolk; and in the year 1688 Daniel Farrington, esq. alderman of London, the lineal descendent of John Farrington, and Joanna, his wife, daughter of Ralph Caldwell, of Aldton-hall, in Staffordshire, and a member of Gray's-inn, London, (from which Ralph the Ralph Caldwell, of Hilborough, in South Greenhoe hundred, is descended) possessed it, and on his death his sister, Mrs. Phill, of London.

About the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign we find this lordship valued at 57l. 1s. 5d. ob. that is to say,—Wood-gate-street rent 10l. 4s. 11d. ob.—Green-gate-street 10l. 7s. 5d. ob.—West-gate-street 30l. 6d. ob. over and besides a rent of 14s. 6d. ob. q.—and Goose-gate-street rent 4l. 12s. 3d.

The scite of this manor was near to the church, encompassed with a moat, but the most ancient scite is said to be by the river, against Bylaugh, now called Newcastle.

The manors and principal part of this town, and the hamlet of Worthing, were a few years since sold
and

and conveyed by Mrs. Phill, of London, the owner and possessor at that time, to John Lombe, esq. of Great Melton, the present lord and owner.

HEREFORD, OR HERTFORD'S MANOR. In the reign of Henry III. John de Herford held in this township the sixth part of a fee of Thomas de Ware, and Hugh Snetterton, they of William de Marshall, and he of the king; and one of the same name, seuted by fine in the 6th of Edward II. had six messuages, 260 acres of land, sixteen of meadow, twenty of pasture, one and a half of wood, with five marks, and 6s. 8d. rent here, in Hoe, Beetley, Mattishall, and East Dereham. Thomas Utber, who lived at Hoe in 1666, was lord of it. It appears that the scite of this hall was in the bounds of this parish by the field book.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is a rectory, anciently valued at fifty marks; the present value is 15l. 11s. 1d. and pays first-fruits and tenths, and Worthing is an hamlet belonging to this parish, having a chapel, dedicated to St. Margaret, served by this rector, and annexed to it about 1489.

In 1555 John Christopheron, S. T. B. afterwards dean of Norwich, and bishop of Chichester, was presented by Henry Parker, lord Morley; and in 1557 Richard Cheyney, S. T. B. afterwards bishop of Bristol and Gloucester, was presented by the king and queen.

In 1643 Richard Neave, clerk, bought the advowson of sir Henry Bedingfield, lord of the manor.

In 1743 the Rev. Thomas Ewin was presented to this rectory by Thomas Daye, gent. The Rev. Joshua Larwood is now the rector, presented for this turn

turn, agreeable to the will of his grandfather, the late Rev. Mr. Ewin, who was the patron ; and the patronage at this time is in the Ewin family.

The priory of Norwich had a portion of tithe valued at 40s. per ann.

The church stands on a hill in the middle of the town, and was building in the year 1379, as appears from the will of William lord Morley, dated August 26th, in the said year, wherein he “ gives to the work of the church of Swanton-Morley, then begun, ten marks, and his gilt cup.” It consists of a nave, or body, with two ailes, and a chancel, covered with lead, and under the east end of that a large chancel, and there is a tall square tower, with four bells.

In a window of the chancel an effigy of a priest in a blue robe, praying, and—*Orate p. a'ia Edi. Pylgryme, quod. rector. ist. eccle. q. obiit xxvii die Julij, anno Dni. M. V. iii. cuj. a'ie, &c.*

On a stone on the pavement,—*M. S. Reliquiæ Elizabeth. charissima uxor Fran. Neve, rector. hujus eccl. expiravit 4 Julij, anno Dni. 1664.*

A grave-stone, arms a fret,—*In memory of George Fleming, gent. and his only son, Roger Fleming, citizen and merchant-taylor of London, who died April 9, 1713, ætat. 65.*

Nicholas Parham, gent. died Jan. 2, 1712, aged 87, —and his and his wife's arms.—Rachel, wife of Nicholas Parham, gent. died November 10, 1714, æt. 77.

Parham impaling ermin, three roses ;—*Sacrum memoriæ Petri Parham, hujusce pagi indigenæ coll. Caio-Gorvill,*

Gonvill, socij et amici summi, apud Norwicenses, M. D. solertis et integri, qui fama tandem annisq; satur; relicto, omnibus præcipue egenis grave desiderio, sui quo'd. mortale habuit, sub hoc marmore reposuit anno Christianæ salutis MDCCXXII. ætat. 89.

A stone, with the arms of Jegon, for—*William Jegon, A. M. some time fellow of King's College, in Cambridge, and thirty years rector of this parish, who died November 18, 1710, aged 60.*

Susanna, uxor Caroli Neve, clerici, et hujus ecclesiæ rectoris, sepulta fuit, Feb. 16, 1672.

Also in the church,—*Repositæ sunt hoc sub marmore, in spem beatæ resurrectionis, exuviæ Thomæ Davy, medicinæ baccalaurei, qui obt. 23 die Martij, 1692, ætat. 33.*

Upon the lamented death of Thomas Fleming, gent. attorney at law, born in Swanton-Morley, December 24, 1615, buried here Aug. 15, 1657.

*Weep widows, orphans, all your late support,
Himself is summon'd to a higher court,
Living he pleaded yours, but with this clause,
That Christ at's death should only plead his cause.*

A grave-stone,—*In memory of Amya, wife of John Sheldrake, the fifth daughter of Hamond Farrours, of Wendling, gent. buried December 2, 1658, ætat 29.*

In October, 1638, Clement Dawbrey, gent, was buried in this church; and in January, 1643, John Wortham, esq. Here also are interred many Parhams, Neves, &c.

Swanton-Morley is a considerable village, lying south-west of the river Wenfon, and three miles north-east of the market town of Derham.

TITTLESHALL, or TITTLESHALE*. The principal manor of this town belonged to Norman, a free-man, in the reign of the Confessor, and Ralph Turmit held it under lord Bainard at the grand survey, valued at 70s. and one church endowed with six acres, valued at 5d. the whole being nine furlongs long, and half a leuca broad, paying 5d. gelt.

William lord Bainard being in a rebellion against Henry I. forfeited this lordship, &c. which was granted to Robert Fitz-Gilbert, ancestor of the lords Fitz-Walter.

In the 8th year of king John this lordship was in the family of de Capra, Chevere, or Cheffre: Mariota, widow of Nicholas Capra, had then her dower assigned her in this town, and Godwick, by Hamon Capra, her son.

In the 3d of Henry III. Hamo Chevere held the fourth part of a fee of the barony of Bainard, of Walter Fitz-Robert, and Hamo Chevere was fined sixty marks in the 22d of that king for striking the king's servant.

William Chevere had the grant of a weekly market in this town on Wednesday, also of free-warren in this

* Several towns in England begin with tit, as Titherley, in Hampshire; Titeherington, in Gloucestershire, with Titbury; Tittlesey, in Surry; Tittinanger, in Hertfordshire, &c. all which are seated near some stream, or rivulet, called probably Tit.—*Parkin.*

this town, Godwick, Wellingham, Whiffonset, and Greinton, September 12, in the 51st of Henry III.

Soon after this William de Sutton was lord, in right of Isabel, his first wife, daughter and heiress of William de Chevere, who was living in the 13th of Edward I.

Sir John Sutton was his son and heir, who in right of his wife presented to the church of Rockland-Tofts in 1358, called sir John Sutton, of Wivenhoe, in Essex; he died before the 8th of Richard II. and left sir John Sutton, his son and heir, who died lord of Tittleshall in the 17th of Richard II. and left a daughter and heiress, Margery, married to John Walton, esq. whose heiress general, Joan Walton, married sir John Howard, ancestor of the dukes of Norfolk.*

Mr. Parkin proceeds in a long genealogical detail of the collateral branches of this family, which *we* omit for the very reason *he* gives for inserting it, viz. "I have been the more particular in the history of this family, as sir Richard de Sutton before-mentioned was the last heir male of the eldest branch of it, though it does not appear that he had any interest in this manor, which came to the Waltons by the marriage of Margery, daughter and heiress of sir John Sutton, (elder brother of sir Richard) to John Walton, esq."

Joan, daughter and heiress of John Walton, esq. brought it by marriage to sir John Howard, (*alias* John Howard, esq.) son and heir of sir John Howard, who dying before his father in 1404, the said Joan re-married sir Thomas Erpingham, and left at her death, in 1424, Elizabeth, a daughter and heiress, by Howard,

ard, who in 1428 was married to John Vere, earl of Oxford, and she being his widow, held it in the 1st of Edward IV. and on the death of John Vere, earl of Oxford, in 1526, without issue, it came to his three sisters and coheiresses, Elizabeth, married to Anthony Wingfield; Dorothy, to John Nevile, lord Latimer; and Ursula, to sir Edward Knightly, which Ursula having no issue, this lordship was held by the Wingfields and lord Latimer.

Sir Robert Wingfield had livery of a moiety of it in the 1st of Elizabeth, in which reign the other moiety was held by lord Latimer, who dying in 1577, his moiety came to his four daughters and coheiresses; Catherine, married to Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland; Dorothy, to Thomas Cecil, earl of Exeter; Lucy, to sir William Cornwallis; and Elizabeth, to sir John Danvers.

In the 29th of Elizabeth Edward Coke, esq. was lord, and in his family it still remains; the right honorable the earl of Leicester died lord in 1759, and Thomas William Coke, esq. is now lord and patron.

In the 3d of Henry III. Ralph de Rothing held in this town, and Wellingham, half a fee of lord Fitz-Walter, of the barony of Bainard, and William de Rothing claimed a right in the weekly market on Wednesday, and in the fair, which was on the vigil, the day, and day after St. Margaret.

EARL WARREN'S FEE. In the time of king Edward five free-men held one carucate of land, which Wimer, lord of Greffenhall, held at the survey under earl Warren; there belonged to it what was valued at 40s. but at the survey at only 30s. this came by an exchange

exchange of lands at Lewes, in Suffex; and the soc was in the king's manor of Mileham. The family of de Verley held it under the Foliots, descendents of Wimer, in the 3d of Henry III.

Sir Philip de Verley granted in the 31st of Edward I. to sir Richard de Ely, rector of Tittleshall, and William de Pattelley, this manor, with the wards, heriots, &c. and the advowson of the church, in trust.

In the 6th of Edward II. he granted to Robert Prick, of Frefingfield, in Suffolk, the advowson of this church, with an half acre of land, and in the said year sir Philip settled this lordship (excepting the advowson and the half acre of land aforesaid, which we presume was the church-yard) on Ralph de Bagthorpe, and Isabel, his wife, one of his daughters and coheireffes.

The advowson passed through many hands, till in the 34th of Edward III. licence was had of the bishop of Norwich, and sir Hugh de Hastings, knr. chief lord of the fee, in pursuance of the statute of mortmain, to grant it to the prior and convent of Walsingham, with the licence also of the duke of Lancaster.

It seems that John de Norwood had king Edward's licence to settle it on the master and scholars of St. Michael's house, in Cambridge, which being cancelled, the king in his 33d year granted licence to convey it to the prior, &c. which was accordingly done in his 40th year.

The advowson was thus separated from the manor, which appears to be in the Bagthorpes in the 20th of Edward III.

COXFORD PRIORY MANOR. In the 9th year of king John, Hamo, the capellan, or chaplain, granted by fine to the prior of Rudham (that is, to Coxford priory, it being in Rudham parish) forty-eight acres in Tittleshall. William de Rothing also gave lands to it in the 17th of Edward I.

In the 3d of Henry IV. the prior of Coxford held half a fee of sir Edward Hastings, lord of Gressenhall, and he of the king, as part of the Duchy of Lancaster; and in 1428 their temporalities were valued in this town at 3l. 6s. 10d. ob.

In the 7th of Henry VIII. the prior had sixty acres of pasture lying in Pike-hall pasture, and Newhall pasture, with common and shack thereto belonging, all demised to Henry Fermour, gent. of East Barsham.

At the dissolution it was granted to Thomas duke of Norfolk, by the king, May 9, in the 29th of Henry VIII.

In the 9th of Elizabeth, July 14, Thomas duke of Norfolk demised to Humphry Bedingfield, of Quid-denham, esq. for 1000 years, this lordship, with messuages, lands, &c. in Mileham, &c. part of the possessions of this priory; Bedingfield sold it to William Yelverton, senior, esq. about the 30th of the said queen.

September

September 22, in the 17th of Elizabeth, *concealed* lands in this town, &c. belonging to this priory, were granted to John Herbert, and Andrew Palmer.

NEWHALL. Edmund le Blund granted in the 36th of Edward III. to Robert Potter, of Stratton, the fourth part of the manor of Newhall. John Bocking died seised of it in the 17th of Edward IV.

In the 35th of Henry VIII. Richard Bocking held the manor of Newhall, in Tittleshall, of Catherine Hastings, widow, of the honor of Gressenhall, and of the Duchy of Lancaster.

John Heydon, esq. in right of his mother, kept his first court July 20, in the 5th of Edward VI.

CALEY'S, and GREINSTON'S MANOR. Simon de Greinston, and Hamon Thornkyn, held one fee in this town of Richard de Spalding, in the 3d of Henry III. and Richard of the earl of Gloucetter.

In the 35th of Henry III. Reiner de Counte had free-warren, and a market, at Greinston, by which it appears that there was then a town, or hamlet, also of that name.

Peter de Caley conveyed lands here to Richard de Weasenham in the 52d of that king; and in the following year the said Peter, &c. granted Hamo le Moyne forty acres of land, three of wood, and 8s. rent.

Robert de Greinston, and Ralph de Caley, held in the 20th of Edward III. one fee of the heirs of Gregory de Spalding; and Ralph Boteler held it in the 3d of Henry IV.

William Wayte, of Tittleshall, seems to have and some interest in the 5th of Henry V. in land abutting on Greinston-hall.

In the 36th of Henry VI. January 15, Walter Dorward, citizen of London, and mercer, granted to William Bozoun, of Whiffonset, esq. &c. the manor of Greinston's, and Caley's, with forty acres of land, called Yarlethaaugh, in Tittleshall.

In the 14th of Edward IV. we find here a street, called Greinston-street.

Sir William Fermour, knt. of East Barsham, sold to Henry Wayte, of Tittleshall, gent. and Robert Davy, of Stanfield, yeoman, 100 acres of land in the field-course, or sheep pasture, of Tittleshall, and Mileham, belonging to the earl of Arundel's manor of Mileham, with the liberty of two fold-courses thereto belonging, in the 7th of Edward VI.

In the 30th of Elizabeth, Henry Wayte, gent. was lord, and had a *præcipe* to deliver to Thomas Scarlet, gent. and Anthony Cocket, gent. the manors of Greinston, and Caley's, with messuages in this village, Mileham, &c.

In the 37th of Elizabeth, Edward Coke, esq. was lord of Greinston, and Caley's, and so being united to the capital manor, was possessed by the earl of Leicesther at his death, in 1759, and now by Thomas William Coke, esq. of Holkham.

PEAK-HALL. This was part of the earl of Richmond's manor of Horningtoft, and extended here. Sir Robert de Tye, knt. was lord of this manor of Tittleshall, and Lanwader, in Weston, in Eynsford hundred,

hundred, in the 49th of Edward III. and in the 3d of Henry IV. John Tye held half a fee here; but in the 6th of Henry VI. April 10, John Berney, John Lynford, and William Graner, enfeoffed sir John Fastolf, knt. &c. in the manor of Peak-hall, in Tittleshall, Godwick, &c. formerly sir Robert Tye's, knt. for which sir John Fastolf, knt. granted an annuity of twenty marks per ann. for ever, to Berney, Lynford, and Graner, on certain conditions.

In the 14th of Henry VI. Richard Bozoun, of Whissonset, esq. held in this town, &c. a knight's fee of the honor of Richmond. In the said year he enfeoffed, June 18, sir John Curson, knt. &c. herein.

In the 2d of Edward IV. April 24, sir John Curson confirmed to Thomas Grey, esq. of the body to that king, Walter Gorges, &c. this manor, with its villains, &c.

By an indenture, bearing date July 22, in the 20th of Henry VIII. between sir William Paston, on one part, and John Bozoun, esq. of Whissonset, of the other part, the said John sold to sir William, and his heirs, all his right in the manor of Peak-hall, and the manor of Bozoun's, in Caistor. The tenths of the town were 5l. 4s. Deducted 1l.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary. The ancient value was ten marks. Simon bishop of Norwich confirmed in 1265 to the priory of Castle-Acre two parts of the tithes of the demesnes of Robert de Verley, and a pension of 46s. 8d. was paid for the same annually by the rector. The present value is 9l. 12s. 7d.

In the 3d of Philip and Mary the advowson of this church, on December 22, 1556, (lately in the priory of Walsingham) was granted to Edmund Beaupre, esq.

In 1630, December 15, the rectory of Tittleshall, *alias* Tilleshall, was consolidated with Godwick; and in 1742 the Rev. William Hoste was presented to both by the late earl of Leicester, then lord Lovel, of Lovel-minster, in Oxfordshire.

The chancel and church are covered with lead, being a single pile, with a square tower, and four bells, and a dormitory on the north side, for the family of the Cokes.

A grave-stone in the chancel, for—*Abigail, wife of Thomas Haylet, of Godwick, daughter of Christopher Beddingfield, esq. and Lucy, his wife, late of Wighton, who died October 16, 1727, aged 52.*

In the chancel, against the north wall, is a marble monument, raised altar-ways, with the arms of Coke, per pale, azure and gules, three eaglets displayed, argent, impaling Osborn;—*Here lyeth the body of Robert Coke, of Holkham, esq. son of Richard Coke, and Mary, daughter of sir John Rous, of Henham-hall, in the county of Suffolk, bart. great-grandchild of Sir Edward Coke, some time lord chief justice of the King's-Bench, by Henry, his fifth son. This Robert married the right honorable lady Ann, daughter of Thomas earl of Danby, lord high treasurer of England, by lady Bridget, his wife, daughter of Montague earl of Lindsey, lord great chamberlain of England, by whom he had issue Elizabeth, a daughter, who died in her infancy, as also Edward, his only son, now living; he departed this life*
the

the 16th of January, 1679, in the 29th year of his age.

Against the said north wall is a curious monument of marble, and in an alcove the effigies of a woman on her knees before a desk, under her six sons and two daughters, on their knees;—*Bridget, daughter and one of the heiresses of John Paston, esq. first wife of Edward Coke, esq. attorney general, had issue by him Edward, Robert, Arthur, John, Henry, Clement, Anne, and Bridget: she deceased the 27th of June. anno Dni. 1598*;—On the summit it is decorated with a great shield, viz. Coke, quartering Crispin, Folkard, and Pawe, impaling Paston;—Leach, Somerton, Peper, Walcot, Berry, Craven, and Kerdeston; Wachesham, Charles, Hetherfet, Tatfall, Hengrave, Bainard, Mauteby, &c.—On the dexter side of this shield a shield stands with the arms of Coke, and on the sinister side the arms of Paston.

At the east end of the said north wall is a beautiful and sumptuous altar-monument, on which lies the effigy of sir Edward Coke, in white marble, as a judge in his robes, under an arch supported by two black marble pillars; on the summit is a shield,—Coke quartering, Crispin, Felmingham, Sparham, Narford, Brecknock, or Yarmouth, Knightley, and Pawe; also the figures of the four cardinal virtues, Prudence, Justice, Patience, and Fortitude. Motto,—*Prudens, qui patiens.*

Deo Optimo, Maximo.

Hæ exuvie humanæ expectant resurrectionem piorum, hic situs est non perituri nominis Edwardus Coke, eques auratus, legum anima, interpres oraculum non dubium, promicondus mysteriorum, cujus fere unius beneficio juri-

spiriti nostri sunt juris spiriti. Eloquentiæ flumen, torrens, fulmen suadæ sacerdos unicus. Divinus heros, pro rostris ita dixit, ut liberis insudasse crederes, non nisi humanis; ita vixit, ut non nisi divinis. Sacerrimus intimæ pietatis indigator. Integritas ipsa, veræ semper causæ constantissimus assertor, nec favore, nec muneribus violandus. Eximie misericors. Charior erat huic reus quam sibi (miraculi instar est) siccoculus sæpe audiit sententiam in se prolatam nunquam hic nisi madidoculus protulit.—Scientiæ oceanus, quiq; dum vixit bibliotheca viva, mortuus dici meruit bibliothecæ parens. Duodecim liberorum, tredecim librorum pater. Facebant hic monumenta, facebant marmora (nisi quod pios fuisse denotarint posteros.) Ipse sibi suum est monumentum marmore perennius, ipse sibi sua est æternitas.

“ Dedicated to the memory of sir Edward Coke, a late reverend judge, born at Mileham, in this county of Norfolk, excellent in all learning, divine and human, that for his own, this for his country's good, especially in the knowledge and practice of the municipal laws of this kingdom. A famous pleader, a sound counsellor; in his younger years recorder of the cities of Norwich and London, next solicitor general to queen Elizabeth, and speaker of the parliament in the 35th year of her reign, afterwards attorney general to the same queen, as also to her successor, king James; to both a faithful servant for their majesties safeties. By king James constituted chief justice of both benches successively, in both a just, in both an exemplary judge. One of his majesties most honorable privy council, as also of council to queen Anne, and chief justice in *cire* of her forests, chaces, and parks. Recorder of the city of Coventry, and high steward of the university of Cambridge, whereof he was some time a member in Trinity College; he had two wives; by Bridget, his first

first wife, (one of the daughters and coheiresses of John Paston, esq.) he had issue six sons and three daughters, and by the lady Elizabeth, his second wife, (one of the daughters of the right honorable Thomas earl of Exeter) he had issue two daughters: a chaste husband and a provident father."

Between this inscription and the remaining part of the epitaph, are five shields of arms,—Coke impaling a quartered shield in the first, Crispin; 2d, is obscure; in the 3d, Folkard; in the 4th, sable, a chevron, guttee de sang between three cinque foils, ermin, —Wodehouse,—and in the 5th, Knightley.

He crowned his pious life with a pious and Christian departure, at Stoke-Poges, in the county of Bucks. on Wednesday the 3d day of September, anno Dni. 1634, and of his age 83.—his last words,—“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.”

Learn reader to live so, that thou may so die.

Mr. John Hargrave, a famous statuary, is said to have made this elegant statue of sir Edward, and Mr. Nicholas Stone, master mason, to have erected the monument, with its embellishments, which cost 400l.

A grave-stone by the communion-table,—*In memory of Nathaniel Ducket, rector of this parish 41 years, who died October 28, 1721, aged 73.*—And of—*Lydia Ducket, widow, who died June 21, 1683, aged 68.*

On a mural monument by the pulpit is the shield of Coke, with his quarterings;—*Winefreda, daughter of William Knightley, esq. by Robert Coke, esq. her first husband,*

husband, had issue, Edward, Winefrede, Dorothy, Elizabeth, Anne, Ursula, Margaret, and Andrew; and by her second husband, Robert Bosanne, esq. had issue John, and was buried January 16, in the 11th year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, anno Dni. 1569.

Tittleshall lies on the road from Fakenham to Litcham, and William Collifon esq. has a seat in the village.

WEASENHAM, or WESSENHAM, ALL SAINTS and ST. PETER. The principal manor of this town was held under Stigand the archbishop of Canterbury, in his own right, as a lay-fee, by twelve soc-men, in the reign of king Edward, valued at 40s. but at the survey at 60s. which was on account of an exchange of land lately made: the whole was one leuca long, and half a one broad, and paid 20d. gelt, whosoever was lord. Wimer was then lord under the earl Warren.

EAST-HALL. Wimerus, who was *dapifer* to the said earl, was enfeoffed by him in this and many other lordships; from Wimer's family and descendants it came to the Stuteviles, then to the Foliots and Hastings'; but on the death of John Hastings, esq. of Gressenhall, his two sisters were his heiresses; Ann, married to William Browne, esq. second son of sir Anthony Browne, master of the horse to Henry VIII. &c. and Elizabeth, married to Hamon le Strange. esq. of Hunstanton; and on a division of the Hastings' inheritance, this lordship was assigned to Ann, the eldest sister and coheirefs. Anthony Browne was lord in 1572. From the Brownes it came to Richard Jackson, esq. the present lord, 1757.

CASTLE ACRE PRIORY MANOR. This was made up of several benefactions to the said priory. In a charter of William the second earl Warren, about the year 1100, it appears that Wimer *Dapifer*, before-mentioned, had given all the land which his nephew, Jeffrey, the capellan, held of him. 2s. rent in land here, and 2s. in Greffenhall, to that priory. Roger, son of William *Dapifer*, sewer, or seneschal, to the earl Warren, gave lands, with the homages of certain persons. Drogo, another son, gave, or confirmed, the two churches of St. Peter and St. Paul, of Wea-fenham, with the tithe of his demesne, 14s. rent per ann. in land, and the tithe of Herbold, his man.

Isabella de Greffenhall quit-claimed to them the homage, and tenemented Hugh de Creek in Wea-fenham; this Isabel was a descendent of Wimer, and assumed the name of de Greffenhall; she married, first, Beringer de Cressy, then William de Hunting-field, and after Osmund de Stuteville; this Osmund, in his confirmation of the grants of the family of Wimer, &c. in or about the year 1220, excepts the advowsons of the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, which had been granted to this priory.

Ralph Fitz-Stephen de Ugate, in Wea-fenham Thorpe, gave a messuage, croft, with land and rent here. Several other benefactions were given; and in the 15th of Edward I. the prior, as lord, claimed the assize of bread and beer of his tenants, view of frank-pledge, &c.

On the dissolution it came to the Southwells, and then to lord chief justice Coke, in whose family it still remains, the late earl of Leicester dying lord in 1759, and Thomas William Coke, esq. is now lord.

Sir

Sir Richard Southwell, May 5, in the 37th of Henry VIII. had a grant of it, with the manors of Wendling, &c. in exchange for Haynford, Upton manor.

At the survey we find another lordship in this town belonging to the Conqueror, and farmed of him, or kept by Godric; but the soc belonged to Stigand's manor of Mileham, which was at the survey farmed, or kept, by William de Noiers, as steward to the king, who was lord of Mileham, and this was valued in Spore.

NORTH-HALL. In the 3d year of Henry III. Thomas de Weasenham held half a fee of the honor of Mileham, which belonged to John le Strange, who held it of the Fitz-Alans, barons of Clun, and they *in capite* of the king; and Gilbert de Weasenham in the 26th of the said reign paid half a mark fine for *not* accompanying the king into Gascoigne.

Thomas Fitz-Alan, of Weasenham, was lord in the 3d of Edward I. and claimed the assize of bread and beer, &c. of his tenants; and Robert Weasenham was lord in the 9th of Edward II.

In the 1st of Edward III. John de Bokenham, parson of Intwood, conveyed to Roger de Weasenham the manor of North-hall, in Weasenham.

Of this family, and probably lord of this manor, was sir John de Weasenham, knt. who in the 23d of the said king, being then the king's butler, (*pincerna regis*) had a grant, or licence, to take 12d. of every hogf-head, and 2s. of every pipe of wine imported into England by merchants-strangers, who being also a rich merchant of London, had about this time the
king's

king's crown in pawn; and in the 34th of the said reign was, with sir Robert de Causton, in commission to seize all ships from the mouth of the Thames northward, to the king's use, and to provide them with men at arms, archers, &c. to resist the French then threatening an invasion; and in the 2d year of Richard II. John de Wensfenham conveyed this lordship to John de Leverington. Soon after this it came to the Beaupres, and Nicholas Beaupre. esq. in the 3d of Henry IV. held the fourth part of a fee of the earl of Arundel.

In the 24th of Henry VIII. Nicholas Beaupre, esq. of Outwell, was lord of North-hall manor, in this town; and Edmund, his son, conveyed it in the 36th of that king to Nicholas Rookwood, esq. and not long after we find it in the family of the Southwells; and in the year 1560 Sir Richard Southwell was lord of North-hall manor, and paid a rent of 27s. to the lord of East-hall, due from that of North-hall.

In the 40th of Elizabeth it was possessed by Edward Coke, esq. afterwards lord chief justice, lord also of North-hall Kipton's, Weasfenham Kipton, Weasfenham Castle Ace, Fulcher's, Moll's, and Gamage's, and John Coke was lord in 1659, in which family it remained, the right honorable the earl of Leicester dying lord in 1759: Thomas William Coke, esq. is the present lord.

We have seen an old writing, wherein it is said, that Edric held, in the time of the Confessor, 80 acres of land in this town, with a church of 18 acres, valued at 18d. and Edric had added to it two socmen. That afterwards Ralph earl of Norfolk and the king had the soc, and it was valued at 5s. but at the survey

survey Ralph had forfeited his right, and Godric held it of Alan earl of Richmond.

In a valuable copy of the book of Doomſday, for this county, which we have conſulted, under the titles of the king's land, and that of Godric held for the king, alſo that of Alan earl of Richmond, we have not met with the account as above repreſented. That there was land in this town belonging to the earl of Richmond, we ſhall ſhew, but then it belonged to the lordſhip of Horningtoft, which extended into Weaſenham. This was called Kipton, and is accounted for by Mr. Parkin in the pariſh of Horningtoft, but we have more properly arranged it with Weaſenham, the pariſh it belongs to.

KIPTON, or CHIPETUNA, as it is wrote in Doomſday-book. This was one of the king's lordſhips at the ſurvey, and farmed, or held, of him by Godric, and before that by Aluric and Alfer. The whole, with Horningtoft, was valued at the ſurvey at 7l. of the nine ſocmen Stigand had the ſoc in king Edward's time, and Ralph earl of Norfolk had invaded, or ſeized on it, before he forfeited it by his rebellion, and upon that forfeiture Godric held it of the king. It was meaſured with Horningtoft, and they were both eight furlongs long, and five broad, and paid four pence gelt.

This lordſhip was granted ſoon after the ſurvey to Alan earl of Richmond, and in the 8th year of Edward I. fir Robert de Tatteſhale held one knight's fee here, in Horningtoft and Whiſſonſet, of the honor of Richmond, paying 10s. ward to the caſtle yearly, and theſe lordſhips were then valued by an extent at 4ol. per annum. Thomas Burt claimed free-warren in his demeſne here, and in Horningtoft, in the 15th of
of

of Edward I. and held it of the Tatteshale's. In the 31st year of the reign of that king, Gregory de Castello, and Hugh de Sprouston, held the same, and in the 41st of Henry VI. John duke of Bedford died seized of it, held of him by Thomas Lucas, and belonging to the manor of Swaffham, being parcel of Richmond honor.

In the 36th of Henry VIII. the king granted licence to Mary duchess of Richmond and Somerset to alien this manor to Thomas Brooke and John Williams; and in the said year, October 28, the king granted to Thomas Wrottesley a manor and messuages, lands and a fen, in the tenure of sir Roger Townshend, lately belonging to Westacre priory.

Roger Townshend, son and heir of sir Roger, was possessed of it in the 7th of Elizabeth, in which family it still remains, a moiety of the old Richmond fee.

The town has been quite demolished many years; it stood probably near to the place called Kipton-Ash, where there is kept a great sheep fair, August 24, yearly, and is now in the parish of Weasenham.

Godfrey de Lifewis gave twelve acres of land, lying at *Ciptune Blachehoe*; and by another deed, twenty-four acres, lying on the heath of *Kypton Blakehoe*.

In the 17th of Edward II. Henry de Sprouston granted to Thomas de Stirton the manor of Kipton, Thomas paying to Henry an annuity of 20l. per annum.

John Wharles, or Quarles, of Holkham, conveyed in the 7th of Henry IV. to John Felbrigg, and
 — Gurney,

—— Gurney, 100 acres of land, &c. in Weasenham, Rainham, and the moiety of the manor of Kipton; and Thomas Lucas, of Holkham, esq. had the manor of Kipton, lying in Weasenham, and Rainham, in 1446; he inherited it as heir to the Neals, of Holkham.

After this it came to the Southwells, and sir Robert Southwell died seised of it in the 6th of Henry VIII. In a *computus* of John Forbie, steward to sir Richard Southwell, in the 3d of Elizabeth, it appears that the rent of assize of the free and bond tenants was 57s. 9d. ob.—rent of capons 3s.—farm of the demesnes 9l. 11s. 6d.—for 830 sheep, at 30s. per hundred, 12l. 9s. 9d.—perquisites of court 12d.—rents paid to the bailiff of the honor of Richmond 5s. per ann.—to the bailiff of the duke of Norfolk's manor of Castle Acre priory 21d. ob.—to the rector of South Rainham, late belonging to the priory of Blackborough, 6d. per ann.—to the bailiff of the manor of Scales, in South Rainham, 12d. and Mdm. an arrear of rent of fifteen years, from the executors of sir Roger Townshend, 15s. 8d.

In the 40th of Elizabeth it belonged to Edward Coke, esq. afterwards lord chief justice; this seems to be a part of the old Richmond fee, and is still in the family, the right honorable the earl of Leicester hold it at his death, in 1759. A rent of 5s. per annum is paid to the manor of Swaffham for Kipton-Green, in Weasenham.

Horningtoft was at the survey a very considerable lordship, and farmed of, or kept by Godric, for the king, and was not granted to the earl of Richmond till after the survey, as appears from the state of that town in the book of Domesday.

In

In the 3d of Henry III. Peter de Narford granted to John de Narford a carucate of land here, and Thomas Buhord was querent, and Simon de Rudham deforciant, in a fine levied in the 15th of the said king, at Westminster, of certain customs and services for lands in Weasenham Thorpe, Thomas requiring Simon to pay 8s. per ann. and foreign service, with 8d. to the custody of Richmond-castle, and that Simon should carry his arms at the charge of the said Thomas, as often as the king was with his army.

Roger de la-Ware impleaded several persons in the 10th of Edward I. for lands in Hey-Weasenham, &c. as his right, whereof his ancestors were seised in the time of king John.

The temporalities of Castle-acre priory, in 1428, were 2l. 3s. 9d. ob.—of West-acre 8s. 9d.—of Maffingham priory 5s. concealed lands in Weasenham-thorpe, belonging to the rectory, granted by the abbot of Wendling to John Corbet, paying 3s. 4d. per annum, were given by queen Elizabeth, February 9. in her 12th year, to Nicholas Mynn. William, the third earl Warren, &c. confirmed to the monks of Castle-acre the advowson of the churches of Weasenham-thorpe All Saints, and St. Peter, with the appurtenances, and the tythe of the demesne of Winter, the *dapifer*.

In the 40th of Henry III. the prior, and convent of Castle-acre, conveyed to William de Stuteville, lord of this town, the advowson of the said two churches, with that of East Lexham, and Stuteville granted back to the prior the church of St. Andrew, of East Lexham, reserving to the prior the old pension out of the said churches of Weasenham. And

in the following year the said two churches were granted to the abbey of Wendling, by the said William de Stuteville, and were afterwards appropriated to the said Abbey, and vicarages were established. By the consent of the bishop of Norwich, a composition was made in 1320, by which the prior of Castle-acre let to perpetual farm to the abbot and convent of Wendling two parts of the tythes of the garbs, or corn tythe, of the demesne which formerly belonged to William de Stuteville, Alan Fitz-Roger, and John Lambert, in the fields of Weasenham, for 4l. sterling per annum, viz. to the prior 4os. to the sacrist 4os.

The ancient value of the rectory of the church of All Saints was 18 marks, and St. Peter's 20 marks. The present value of these two vicarages united is 15l. 19s. 11d.

Master Lambert was instituted rector of St. Peter's, with the chapel of St. Paul annexed, also the church of St. Andrew, of East Lexham, presented by the prior and convent of Castle-acre about the year 1195.

In 1309, John de Tuttington was collated by the bishop of Norwich to the vicarage of All Saints Weasenham, and St. Peter's of Weasenham-thorpe, with the chapel of St. Paul annexed. And in 1349 it appears that the abbot, &c. of Wendling, presented at the bishop's nomination.

In the 50th year of Edward III. the vicar had a patent to enlarge his manse. The bishop of Norwich nominated to these vicarages till the dissolution, after that the crown had the patronage, and in 1729 the rev. John Franklin, was presented by George II.

At the south-east end of the nave, or body of the church, was the stone staircase leading up to the old rood loft; over the door, or entrance, we saw some years past an old painted board, with the portraiture of Henry VI. painted thereon, in his robes, with the arms of France and England, quarterly, and—*Rex Henricus Sextus*,—with an Antelope at his feet.

In a north window of the chancel are the arms of Grey, of Rotherfield.

This church of All Saints, called South Weafenhams church, has a nave, north aisle, chancel, and a square tower. The church of St. Peter has a nave, north and south aisle, with a chancel, covered with lead.

The village of Weafenhams lies on the road from Fakenham, seven miles, to Swaffham nine. The two churches are about three quarters of a mile distant, and Richard Jackson, esq. member of Parliament for the cinque-port of New Romney, in Kent, king's counsel, counsel to the board of trade, bank, and south-sea company, and one of the counsel to the university of Cambridge, is the present lord.—He was named in the commission sent in 1778, to treat with the American colonies, but, we believe, declined that high office appointed by parliament.

WELLINGHAM is wrote Walnecham in the grand survey, "being, according to Parkin, a ham, with a wet ing, or mound, against the water, as Walpole, Walton, &c." and was at that time the lordship of Ralph lord Bainsard, and owned by Harold in king Edward's time, who was afterwards king of England; and three socmen of Stigand then belonged to it, who held of the king's manor of Mileham,

and paid there all customary dues. It was delivered up during Stigand's life to lord Bainard, by an exchange.

The manor was valued in the reign of king Edward at 20s. and 10s. at the survey, and the foccage part then at 4s. at the survey at 40d. The whole was one leuca long, nine furlongs broad, and paid 10d. gelt, whoever was lord of it.

BAINARD'S FEE, FREVILLE'S MANOR. Michael Capra granted in the 10th of Richard I. two carucates of land in this village to William de Huntingfield, and Isabel, his wife, and the heirs of Isabel, to be held of Michael, of Bainard castle, in London.

The family of de Capra, Cheffre, or Chevere, as they are wrote, were lords of part of this town, and of Tittleshall.

In the 3d of Henry III. Baldwin de Frevile held the fourth part of a fee of Walter Fitz-Robert; and at the same time Thomas Coble, and his parceners, held lands in foccage.

It is not from our purpose here to observe, that William lord Bainard, grandson to the aforesaid Ralph, taking part with Helias earl of Mayne, Philip de Braose, William Malet, and other conspirators against Henry I. forfeited his barony of Bainard, the head whereof was Bainard's castle, by the Thames side, to the south of St. Paul's cathedral, and which gives name to one of the wards of that city, which, on his forfeiture, was granted by that king to Robert, a younger son of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, pregenitor to the ancient earls of Clare, from which Robert the noble

noble family of Fitz-Walter, barons of the realm, did descend.

In the 15th of Edward I Baldwin de Frevile had free-warren in his demefne lands, and died lord in the 17th of the said king.

An agreement was made in the 6th of Edward II. between sir Alexander Frevile and Clementia le Strange, late wife of John le Strange, the said Alexander having lett to her this lordship, and that of Weasenham, for life; she covenants to keep all buildings in repair, and after six years to pay 40l. rent per ann. and if dying before the six years, her heirs to hold it under the same covenants, and for an income she paid forty marks. In the 20th of Edward III. Baldwin de Frevile held one fee of lord Fitz-Walter.

Soon after this it came to the family of de Bello-Prato, or Beaupre, and Thomas Beaupre presented to the rectory of the *Tertia Pars* of this church in 1349.

This Thomas was a person of eminence in the county of Cornwall in the reign of Edward III. and appears to be a knight in the year 1332; whose son, Nicholas, succeeded him, and held it of the earl of Rutland in the 3d of Henry IV. In the Beaupres it remained till the death of Edmund Beaupre, esq. of Outwell, in 1567, the last heir male of that family.

After this it came to sir Robert Bell, lord chief baron of the Exchequer, who was lord of this manor in right of Dorothy, his wife, one of the daughters and coheireffes of Edmund Beaupre aforefaid; and

Edmund Bell, son and heir of sir Robert, had livery of it about the 20th of Elizabeth.

Sir Edward Coke was lord in the reign of James I. John Coke, esq. in 1659; and the earl of Leicester died lord in 1759. Thomas William Coke, esq. of Holkham, is now lord and patron.

SOUTH-HALL was that part of this town which belonged to the Conqueror's manor of Mileham, held by the socmen of Stigand, archbishop of Canterbury, on whose deposition it was granted by the king to Alan, son of Flaald, together with the capital manor of Mileham, soon after the survey; for at that time it was in the Conqueror's hands, and farmed of him by William de Noiars.

Alan was ancestor to the noble family of the Fitz-Alans, earls of Arundel, and granted this, with the hundreds of Launditch and South Greenhoe, and other lordships, to Seward, ancestor of a family who assumed the name of le Strange.

In the 33d of Edward I. John le Strange, of Litcham, held a messuage and lands here of the heirs of Richard Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel, by the service of 10s. per ann. and in the said year forty-four messuages, seventy-three acres of land, twelve of meadow, 45s. rent, and the rent of six quarters of barley, with three of oats, in this town, Weasenham, and Framham, with the advowson of the church of Wellingham, were conveyed to him.

In the 4th year of Edward II. Ralph le Strange granted by fine to John, son of Gilbert, and his heirs, this manor and advowson, &c. This John was father of Richard, who was the first of his family that
took

took the name of Beaupre from his lordship of Outwell, seated on rich meadow lands and pastures. Thomas de Beaupre was son of Richard, and lord of both manors, viz. of Frevile's, and South-hall, in this town, and a rent out of this manor is paid to the manor of Mileham. The tenths were 2l.—Deduct 6s. 8d.

The church of Wellingham is dedicated to St. Andrew, to which there belonged two rectories; one called the portion of John, who was rector in the reign of Henry III. valued at seven marks per ann. this consisted of two parts of the tithes of the parish; the other, called the portion of Roger, valued at four marks, which had the third part of the tithes; the prior of St. Faith's, at Horsham, had a portion also of tithes, valued at 6s. 3d. per ann.

The rectory of the two parts seems to be in the Arundel's fee, and the third part in the fee of Bainard; and in the reign of king John, Roger de Frevile impleaded Michael Capra, to shew cause why he brought a *quare impedit* against him, and hindered him in presenting a proper person to the rectory of the third part of this church. The present value is 5l. 8s. 6d. and is discharged. The two rectories seem to be united about the year 1391.

In 1755 the Rev. Thomas George was presented to the rectory of Wellingham by the late earl of Leicester.

The church is about a mile north-west of Litcham, stands on an eminence, and hath three bells.

WENDLING, so called as lying by meadows on a winding water, or rivulet, was the manor of the abbot of

Bury in the time of the Confessor, and at the survey was held of the abbot by Richard, or Ricaiard, valued then at 20s. but at the survey at 30s. was nine furlongs long, and six broad, and paid 11d ob. gelt.

In the 6th year of Richard I. a fine was levied before the king's justices, between William de Huntingfield and the abbot of Bury, whereby William quitclaimed all his right in this town, and advowson of the church, to the abbot, on which the abbot conveyed to him, and his heirs, the whole township of Wendling, to be held of the said abbot, and his successors, by the service and payment of 60s. rent per ann. and they were to hold the men and tenants of the town by the same services and customs which they performed to the abbot's predecessors before William de Greffenhall held the same.

In 1218 William de Saham, clerk, held lands in this town, and was a benefactor to Wendling abbey.

The abbot of Bury about the year 1298 granted 50s. per annum rent to William de Saham, which the convent received of sir Jordan Foliot, lord of this town, and of the honor of Greffenhall; and in the 3d of Edward I. sir Adam Foliot, lord, had the assize, &c.

HEREFORD'S MANOR. This was held of the honor of Greffenhall, and extended into this town; Thomas de Hereford possessed it in 1277; and sir Warin de Hereford in 1300. It afterwards came to the Ferrours, and John Ferrour died seised of it in 1483.

In the 13th of Charles I. Hamon Ferrour, gent. died possessed of a capital messuage, divers closes
and

and lands in this town, and Greffenhall, held of the manor of Greffenhall in soccage, paying 20s. per ann. he died August 9, 1637, and left six daughters and coheirettes; Mary, aged 20, Martha, Elizabeth, Honoria, Anna, and Judith.

HERRINGSHAW and DIKEWOOD MANORS. The monks of Castle Acre had a manor here belonging to the earl Warren's fee, &c.

In the 4th of king John Peter de Watlington granted to the prior of Castle Acre sixty acres of land in Great and Little Dikewood, and Launditch; and in the 5th of the said king, Elser, and Alice, his wife, granted to the said monastery forty acres of land in Herringshaw.

Henry III. by a charter dated at Walsingham, March 15, in his 40th year, granted to the said priory free-warren in all their demesne lands in Herringshaw and Kempstone.

In the register of Castle Acre priory, lately in lord Oxford's library, are many grants, without date, of lands here to the said priory.

It appears that Dikewood was also a manor belonging to the said priory, and was conveyed as such by the prior of Castle Acre, in the 29th of Henry VIII. to that king, with the manor of Herringshaw; and in 1634 there were then a court-leet, court-baron, and about twenty suitors, some free, but most copyholders, belonging to it. The fines and profits of court were, at that time, 3l. per ann. and sir Edward Coke, impropiator of Wendling, received 5l. in lieu of tithes.

The manors of Herringshaw, otherwise Heringshall, and Dikewood, are in Wendling, and extend into Gressenhall, Longham, Beefton, and Great Framham: these manors were granted by Henry VIII. with several other manors in Norfolk, to Thomas duke of Norfolk, and his heirs. Afterwards sir Thomas Gresham, knt. was seised of these manors, and he and Ann, his lady, (the daughter of William Fernley, esq. and widow of William Reade, esq.) about 1570 conveyed them to sir William Reade, knt. (her son, by William, her first husband) and his heirs, who settled them on Mary, his wife, and she surviving him, married sir Edward Spencer, knt. who in 1626 was lord of these manors in her right. In 1664 Leicester viscount Hereford, the earl of Desmond, and Bridget, viscountess, his wife, and lord Berkeley, sold and conveyed these manors, with the manor of West Braddenham, in the hundred of South Greenhoe, to Henry Warner, esq. of Mildenhall, in Suffolk, who in 1683 sold these manors, and West Braddenham, to sir Samuel Thomson, of London, knt. and he in 1690 settled them on the marriage of Robert Thomson, his son, of the Inner Temple, London, esq. after whose decease they vested in William Thomson, esq. the great grandson of sir Samuel; and in 1756 these manors, and West Braddenham, were sold by decree in Chancery, and purchased by James Smyth, of West Braddenham, esq. who is the present lord.

CASTLE ACRE PRIORY MANOR. This was made up of benefactions granted to the convent, William de Stuteville, lord of Gressenhall, granted in the 29th of Henry III. to the prior and convent, all his right in all the lands and tenements which the prior, &c. and their men, held in villainage in the towns and fields of Wendling, and Hyngesham, and all pre-
pressures

prestures made by the prior and his men, to Easter-day in the said year; and the prior remitted to William all the land which his men held in vallainage of the prior, in the said towns, and purprestures there made, to the said time; and also gave to William 40s. of silver.

In the 3d of Edward I. the prior had free-warren here, and in Herringshaw, assize of bread and beer, view of frank-pledge, &c.

In 1428 their temporalities here were valued at 5l. 17s. per ann. and on the dissolution it was granted by the prior of Castle Acre to Henry VIII. in his 29th year.

In the 35th of Henry VIII. it was granted to Robert Hogan, esq. and Thomas, his son and heir, held it in the 2d of Edward VI. and had then licence to alien two closes here, called Some's, and Little Guntton's, to Bridget Hogan, and Wendling close to Thomas Caton.—The tenths were 11. 19s. Deducted 6s.

WENDLING ABBEY was founded about the 52d year of Henry III. by sir William de Wendling, called in some records *Clerk*, son of William, and in others, son of John de Wendling; he seems to be the same William de Wendling who was one of the king's judges, or justices, in the 55th year of the said king: it was for canons of the Premonstratensian order, or that of St. Norbert, and dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin.

Sir William de Wendling, son of William de Wendling, gave them the church of St. Clement of Comstord, in Norwich, with several houses near to it,

it, and a key, or staithe, which Simon abbot of Langley, in Norfolk, at the request of sir Jeffrey de Lodnes, and for 3s. annual rent, confirmed to the said sir William, who in 1267 settled it, with ten acres of land in Wendling, (on which the abbey was built) with 3s. rent in Baldefswell, on this abbey, founded, as Blomefield says, on his manor of Wendling. It does not appear that sir William had any lordship here.

Gilbert de Fransham's manor of Fransham *Magna* extended into this town, and gave his consent, as capital lord of part of the land belonging to his fee.

The principal lord here was Robert de Stuteville, son of William de Stuteville, lord of the honor of Gressenhall, who granted to the church of St. Mary, of Wendling, in 1273, the whole site of the new work of the abbey church there, saving to himself and to his heirs the patronage of it.

Sir William de Wendling also in 1267 settled on the abbot of Wendling, and his successors, five messuages, eighty-seven acres of land, a mill, and 10s. rent, &c. in Scarning; he also granted to them the church of Langham, which was appropriated to them, and that of Wendling. He was rector of Bodham, in Holt hundred; and in the 41st of Henry III. William de Wendling, clerk, was the king's escheator.

William de Saham in 1281 settled divers lands and tenements in Wendling on the abbot and canons, on condition that they paid five marks per ann. to his chantry chaplain, officiating in his chapel of St. Andrew, of Saham-Tony. This William was a justice
intinerant

itinerant in 1276; and in 1282 justice of the King's-bench.

In the 53d of Henry III. they had a patent for the patronage of a moiety of Burnham Ulp, Burnham All Saints, and St. Margaret's, and the advowson of Yaxham. The abbot and convent had also a lordship in Feltwell, and the lordship of Gunton's, in Scarning.

In 1330 lady Margaret Foliot, patroness of it, was buried before the high altar in the presbytery of the conventual church, on the north side.

The donations of the founder, with those of Reynier de Gimmingham, Robert de Stuteville, and Jordan Foliot, knights, were in the 6th of Edward III. confirmed.

The abbots were admitted by the bishop of Norwich.

At the dissolution it was valued at 55l. 18s. 4d. per ann. and was seated in a marsh, or low ground, with a small rivulet to the south; the entrance into the abbey-court was on the west, which court was on the north side of the conventual church, and the churchyard, both of these taking in about two acres of ground.

The church, as well as it can now be traced, (most of the very foundation stones being dug up and carried away to mend the roads) was, together with the presbytery, or chancel, about 72 paces long, and, with the north and south aisles, about 18 broad; part of the wall of the west end of the church is still standing, covered with ivy, and the wall of the churchyard

yard was close to the river, running south of it. Not long before its suppression here were an abbot and six canons.

A late author says, that it was granted by queen Elizabeth, in her 16th year, to Edward Dyer, esq.

Sir Henry Spelman observes, that it was not dissolved by the statute, or act, of Henry VIII. but before the general dissolution, by a bull of pope Clement VII. dated May 14, 1528, and granted to cardinal Wolsey for the erection of his two colleges of Christ-church, in Oxford, and that of Ipswich, and was farmed of Christ College by Thomas Hogan, esq. of East Braddenham.

On the 11th of December Henry VIII. in his 38th year, granted it to the dean and chapter of Christ-church, in Oxford, of his own foundation.

The king had granted it again, in his 37th year, May 5, to sir Richard Southwell, who reconveyed it, on an exchange for other lands, in the 38th of the said king, and it remains at this time in the dean, &c. aforesaid. This is to be understood of the manor and lands in Wendling, and not of the appropriation.

The church of Wendling was appropriated to the abbey, valued at five marks, and dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul; it is covered with lead, and has a square steeple, with three bells; the late earl of Leicester was impropiator, as Thomas William Coke, esq. now is.

Here are several grave-stones,—*In memory of Mr. Farrou Markant, who died June 6, 1675.—Thomas Markant,*

*Markant, gent. who died, aged 52, 1649.—John Ham-
mont, gent. who died November 13, 1678, aged 20.—
Hillary Forby, who died November 26, 1658, aged 59.
—Hillary Forby, jun. who died December 24, 1673,
aged 13.—Mrs. Mary Forby, who died July 21, 1677,
aged 22.*

We have seen a writing, expressing, “that this impropriate rectory was granted by queen Elizabeth, in her 4th year, with that of Langham, to Arthur Futter, gent. and that *concealed* lands belonging to it were granted in her 12th year, February 9, to Nicholas Mynns.” William Futter was impropriator in the 35th of Elizabeth, and soon after sir Edward Coke purchased it, 1630.

In 1775 the Rev. Thomas Wigg Hancock was presented to this curacy by the late Wenman Coke, esq. of Holkham.

Wendling is a village, lying on the turnpike road from East Dereham, three miles and a half, to Swaffham eight and a half, and extending northwards towards Longham.

WHISSONSET, or WISSINGSET, (wrote Witchingheseta in Doomfday-book) so called as set, or seated, in or near a wet watry meadow, was granted by the Conqueror to Roger Bigot, one of his chieftains, ancestor to the Bigots, earls of Norfolk, valued at 40s. but at the survey at 60s. three freemen belonged to the soc of the king's manor of Milcham; the whole was half a leuca long, and half a one broad, and paid 10d. gelt, whoever was possessed of it.

Sir Henry Spelman, in his *Icenia*, says, "that Hubert Bozun, a Norman, who came into England with the Conqueror, and was his chief *fletcher*, had a grant from him of this lordship for his services;" but this appears to us to be a mistake.

The first of the family that we meet with in ancient records, is Herbert, or Hubert Bozun, who lived in the reign of king Stephen, &c. and granted to the monks of Castle Acre eight acres of land, which Hubert probably descended from Ralph, son of Walter, who was enfeoffed herein by Roger Bigot.

Boujon in French signifies an arrow, with a great or broad head, and for some eminence and excellency in the use of such a weapon, the ancestor of this ancient family might assume this name, or hold some lordship, or fee, by it, and on that account they might bear, as we find, for their arms—argent, three boujons, gules, feathered, and knobbed, or headed, or.

In the red-book of the Exchequer, under the title of *serjeanteria*, in Drakelow, Derbyshire, William de Gresley held a manor,—*P. unum arcum sine corda, et pharetro, et duodecim sagittas, et unum bozonem.*

Roger Bozun was living in 1202, son of Hubert, and purchased lands in Ovington, in Norfolk. In 1227 Peter Bozun, son of Roger, had the advowson of the church of Ovington, which Peter, in or about 1233, was, with William Rustain, a collector of the aid in Norfolk and Suffolk, granted to Henry III. for marrying his sister to the emperor.

In the 41st of Henry III. John Bozun was presented as holding a knight's fee, and to be of full age, and not a knight; and in the 48th of that king had a grant of a free-warren in all his demesne lands here and in Ovington.

After this time, or about 1270, an agreement was made between Peter Bozun, lord of Whissonset, and sir Thomas Burt, lord of Horningtoft, about the extent of their commons, which was settled by arbitration. This Peter, then a knight, died about the 16th of Edward I. and held three knights fees of sir John de Vaux, and he of Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk: of this family were the Bozuns of Devonshire.

The Bozuns remained lords of Whissonset, Ovington, and Yelverton, in Norfolk; and John Bozun in the 33d of Edward III. was in the retinue of John de Montague, and on travelling into foreign parts, had the king's letters of protection; and in 1380 presented to this church; he was also lord of Greyston's, in Tittleshall, held of lord Roos, and he of lord Mowbray.

Richard Bozun, esq. was lord in the 5th of Henry V. and dying in 1430, was buried in the chancel of this church. William, his son and heir, died in 1460, and lies buried in the church-yard. John Bozun, esq. his son, married Eleanor, daughter of sir Edward Wodehouse, of Kimberley, relict of Edmund Hastings, esq. John dying in 1489, he was succeeded by John Bozun, esq. his son and heir, who married Elizabeth, daughter of ——— Rouncey, of Bretaigne, in France, and presented in 1555; he left Robert, his son and heir, who presented in 1567, and in 1577 had Roger, his son and heir, who married Ann, daughter of sir Hamon le Strange, of Hunstanton;

and in the 6th year of James I. in consideration of a marriage between Hamon, his son and heir, and Frances, daughter of sir Thomas Playters, of Sotterley, in Suffolk, settled this manor and advowson on his son and heir, in reversion, after the decease of himself, and Ann, his wife.

Hamon Bozun, esq. had by Frances, his wife, three sons, Thomas, Roger, William, and several daughters; Elizabeth, married to Christopher Crowe, esq. of East Bilney; Ann, to Bartholomew Johnson, of Bittering; Catherine, to William Harman, of Stanhowe; Susan, to Thomas Goodrick, gent. of North Creak; and Frances, to Edmund Briggs, of Bradfield.

Thomas Bozun, esq. son and heir of Hamon, sold in 1657 to Catherine Calthorpe, widow, and second wife of James Calthorpe, esq. of East Barsham, this manor: she was daughter and coheiress of sir Edward Lewkenor, of Denham, in Suffolk, and settled it on her second son, James Calthorpe, esq. of the Middle-Temple, who was lord in 1708, and died unmarried, January 19, 1716, and was buried at East Barsham.

From the Calthorpes it came by the two daughters and coheiresses of sir Christopher Calthorpe to sir Thomas le Strange, bart. and on his death to his brother, sir Henry, the late lord, who died September 9, 1760. It is now possessed by Mary lady le Strange, his widow, who is a daughter of the late Roger North, esq. of Rougham, and now resides at Gressenhall.

The earl of Richmond's manor of Horningtoft extended into this. Thomas Burt, son and heir of sir
Hamon

Hamon Burt, lord of Horningtoft, and of the fourth part of Whiffonset, granted to James de Hulmo, of this town, lands, with a free foldage in the fields, free bull and free boar, paying 2d. per ann.

John Lyngge, *alias* Bradele, in the 35th of Henry VI. had lands, rents, and services, with the liberty of a moiety of a fold-course, in this town, Horningtoft, and Godwick. This soon after came to the Bozuns, united to the capital lordship.

The tenths of the town were 3l. 2s.—Deducted 6s.

The temporalities of Westacre priory in 1428 were 10s. 4d. ob.—Castle Acre 2s.—Fakenham 11s.—and Walsingham 12d.

The church is a single pile, with a chancel covered with lead, and a square tower, with four bells.

On the pavement of the chancel lie several grave-stones of grey marble, with the effigies of the Bozuns in armor, on brass plates; on one,

*Ricardus Bozoun quonda' fueram vocitatus,
Quod fueram non sum quia pulvere su' subhumatus,
M. C. tetras ac L. in festi vesp'e stelle
Spiritus expirat, Deus O mea crimina pelle.*

On another,—*Orate p. a'i'a. Johis Bozon, armigi.
qui obiit viii die Februarij, anno Dni. MCCCCLXXXIX,
cuj; a'i'e. &c.*

On a third,—*Orate p. a'i'a. Willi. Bozon, armigi.
qui obiit xiii die Februarij, anno Dni. MCCCCLX, cuj;
a'i'e. &c.*

In the church, near the font, on a grave-stone,—
*Orate p. a'ia. Willi. Hopton, armigeri, filij d'ni. Willi.
 militis, cuj; a'ie. &c.*

Under the clerk's seat, on a stone, with an effigy
 in brass, but the arms reaved,—*Orate p. a'ia. Thomas
 Gybon, gen'osi, qui obiit v die Junij, anno Dni.
 MCCCCLXXXIII, cuj; &c.*

In a window on the north side of the church, there
 was a few years past the effigy of a man in a long
 loose gown of blue, and from a label,—*Se'e Matthia
 intercede p. me.*—Also the arms of de Castello, or
 Castell, and Billingsford impaling argent, a chev'ron,
 sable, in a south window.

In the 4th of Henry VI. Wm. Billingsford released
 to Henry Keys, and John Wyffingsfete, all his right
 in several lands and tenements in this town, &c.
 except the manor of Oxwick, and a wood, called
 Sherndale, in Hornington.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to the Virgin
 Mary; the ancient value was ten marks.

Roger Bozun, who was lord in 1202, gave to the
 prior and convent of Castle Acre two parts of the
 tithe of his demesne in this town, and of his woods
 that were grubbed up, or should be; (*tam de sartis
 quam sartatis*) and the prior and convent resigned their
 right in the presentation on this reserve, that whoever
 should be presented by the said Roger, or his heirs,
 should give security for the payment of one mark per
 ann. to them. The rector was obliged to pay 40s.
 per ann. pension for the tithes of the aforesaid de-
 mesnes. The present value is 10l. 3s. 4d.

In 1745 the Rev. Henry Calthorpe was presented by sir Thomas le Strange, *knt. p.j.* to the rectory of Whissonset, or Whiffingset.

WORTHING, or WORTHINGS, is a hamlet belonging to the parish and lordship of Swanton, seated in an *ing*, or low ground, between and near to the place where two rivers unite; such a scite is called by the Germans, Werd, or Werdt, as Keiserwerd, and Donawert, in Germany, and there is an old proverb in the neighbourhood,—“Worse and worse, as Worthing-mill.”

Henry de Rhye gave to the monks of Castle Acre the mill of Worthing, with Thurstane the miller, his mother, and brothers, with all his substance. Several other grants were made to that monastery by persons in this town.

Lands here were granted, July 1, in the 7th of Edward VI. to Thomas Gressenham, late in the tenure of Christopher Preston.

Thomas Warner held four messuages, with the appurtenances, of queen Elizabeth, *in capite*; and William Warner, his son and heir, held in the 15th of Elizabeth seventeen acres, late parcel of the possessions of Castle Acre priory, and three acres, called le Holbred land.

The manor and principal part of Worthing, and Swanton, were a few years ago purchased of Mrs. Phill, of London, by John Lombe, *esq.* of Great Melton, who is now lord and owner.

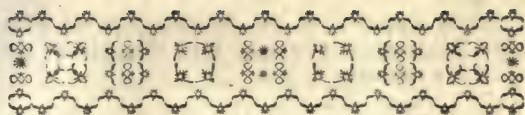
The chapel, or church, is covered with lead, and the chancel with thatch, the steeple, which was round,

round, is in ruins, and one bell stands in the church thus inscribed:—*In eternis annis resona campana Johannis.*

The Rev. Joshua Larwood is now rector of Swanton-Morley, with the chapel of Worthing.







T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
N O R F O L K.

Hundred and Half of Mitford,

IS bounded on the north by Launditch and Eynsford; by Forehoe on the east; by Wayland on the south; and by South Greenhoe on the west. It is in extent, from north to south, about eight miles, and nine from east to west. This hundred lies directly in the centre of the county of Norfolk, and is, generally speaking, rich and well cultivated.—The turnpike road which passes through this hundred, by East Dereham, is a matter of great convenience to the inhabitants; but we cannot say much in favour of the country roads, especially those in the south part of the hundred. The road from Dereham to Shipdham, and Watton, is also of much public benefit.

A There

There is no river of any consequence in this hundred, but it abounds in many parts with woods, and extensive commons.

At the survey it was wrote Mittefort,* and belonged to the monastery of St. Etheldreda, or St. Audrey, at Ely; the abbot and convent were lords of it in the reign of the Confessor, and it was valued at 60s. per annum.

It was granted with the manor of East Dercham, to that monastery, by Ethelwold bishop of Winchester, in the reign of the Saxon king Edgar.

Edgar granted to it very great privileges, which were confirmed and enlarged by king Edward, and other kings, and on the erection of the bishopric of Ely, in 1109, was settled on that see, as part of its revenues.

In the reign of Richard I. these royalties belonged to it: soc, sac, thol, theam, infangtheof, and outfangtheof, frithwite, ferdwite, griðbrith, and all forfeitures, which he confirmed, as his father, Henry II. had.

The bishop's men were free from toll, passage, gelt, and Dane-gelt, and acquitted from all fines for murder in the said hundred, as due to the bishop, except they who held of a different see, and except treasure-trove. He had the return of all writs in his own fee, and that of other persons, writs of replevin, all fines and amercements, felons goods, and fugitives.

In

* Mitford, or Mid-ford, may have its name in allusion to some *ford* in the centre or *middle* of the county.---Mitford is the name of a family, and of a town, in Northumberland.

In the 34th of Henry III. he had his own coroner, and the hundred was valued at 100s. per ann. in the 35th he had free-warren, and in the 41st of that king his own judge for this liberty, and the bishop of Ely had a prison at East Dereham.

In the 6th of Edward I. he had a gallows, tumbrel, a free court, and cognizance of all secular crimes, held pleadings in the hundred as well as the sheriff in the county, and had assize of bread and beer. About this time it was valued at ten marks per ann.

In the 11th of Henry VI. the bishop's bailiff accounted for sheriff's aid 18s. 2d. and for the leets of several towns, and for Streteman's-Dike; this was so called from the north street of East Dereham, which lies in the hundred of Launditch, of which John le Strange, of Litcham, was lord in 1277; and the men inhabiting in this street met once every year to renew their pledges at this dike, in the presence of the bailiffs of both these hundreds, and paid a fine (*ne occasionentur*) not to be charged with any occasional payments.

In the 37th of Henry VIII. Thomas Goodrye, bishop of Ely, granted Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk, the office of bailiff of all and singular the lordships and lands in Norfolk, belonging to him, for his life.

The hundred remained in the fee of Ely till granted to the crown, by act of parliament, in the 1st of Elizabeth: in the beginning of her reign it lett for 4l. 5s. 3d. per ann. besides casualties; and in the 16th of James I. it was granted to sir John Hobart, lord chief justice of the Common-Pleas, for three lives.

4 HUNDRED OF

In 1639 the hundred court was kept at Brock, or Brook-pit, and the sum of 13d. was then paid at the turn held there for lands at Begale-Green, in Mattishall.

The towns in this hundred are as follow, to which we add the number of votes polled by freeholders resident in each, at the great contested election for knights of the shire, in 1768.

	W.	de G.	A.	C.
Cranworth -	6	0	7	1
Dereham, East -	29	45	47	21
Garveston - -	2	2	0	2
Hardingham -	10	9	0	0
Hockering - -	2	2	10	10
Letton - -	4	0	4	0
Mattishall -	17	14	4	3
Mattishall-Bergh -	2	2	3	3
Reymerston -	5	5	0	0
Shipdham -	17	14	8	1
South Bergh -	8	4	4	0
Thuxton - -	0	0	0	0
Tuddenham, East and North } -	6	15	2	11
Westfield -	1	1	1	1
Whinbergh -	2	3	0	1
Wood-Rifing -	1	1	0	0
Yaxham - -	6	5	2	0
Total	118	122	92	54

The Seats and principal Houses in this Hundred are :

<i>East Dereham,</i>	Samuel Rash, esq.
<i>Hardingham,</i>	Edward Paulet Heyhoe, esq.
<i>Ditto,</i>	Thomas Gregson Payne, esq.
<i>Letton,</i>	Thornhagh Gurdon, esq.
<i>Mattishall,</i>	Mr. Thomas Hewitt.
<i>Feymerston,</i>	Thomas Grigson, esq.
<i>Shipdham,</i>	George Lucas Strudwick, esq.
<i>Ditto,</i>	Rev. Coleby Bullock.
<i>Quebec Castle,</i>	Sir John Odingsfeles Leeke, bart.
<i>Tuddenham, East,</i>	Rev. Thomas Du Quesne.
<i>Wood-Rising,</i>	John Weyland, esq.

This hundred pays to the general county-rate 20l. 9s. 6d. to a fix hundred pounds levy.

A spacious, airy, and convenient HOUSE OF INDUSTRY has lately been erected for the reception and benefit of the poor of the hundreds of Mitford and Launditch, which very laudable work has been supported and attended to by many worthy gentlemen, zealous for the welfare and happiness of their fellow creatures, who are, through age or infirmities, necessitated to become burthensome to the parishes they belong to. Here, instead of what a scanty pittance will bring them from market, the poor of all ages, and of both sexes, are decently cloathed, comfortably fed, and lodged in clean apartments, their health, morals, and education, properly attended to, and it is their own fault if they do not enjoy the blessings of plenty and contentment: but even this, like all other human institutions, met with much popular opposition in the beginning: time has, and time will, we hope, bury those prejudices in conviction, and reconcile the minds of all men to what is the real interest

rest of the poor—a frugal support through life, and a total suppression of licentious liberty.

CRANWORTH, and SWATHING. This lordship was farmed, or taken care of for the king at the survey, (who was then lord of it) by Godric. Ulf, who was lord of it in the time of Edward the Confessor, being deprived of it, valued at 100s. but at the survey at 10l. per ann. and 10s. was paid for an income, or fine. It was one leuca long, and half a one broad, and paid 15d. gelt. Ulf was the third son of king Harold.

At the time of the Conqueror's survey, adjoining to Cranworth, was a town called Suatinga, or Swathing, a town many centuries passed destroyed and depopulated, and the lands belonging to it now included in the townships of Cranworth, and Letton; that it was a considerable village appears from the account of it in Doomsday-book, when it belonged to the king, and was farmed of him, or taken care of by Godric,

Hacon, grandson of earl Godwin, and son of Swain, brother to king Harold, was deprived of it; valued in Hacon's time at 100s. at the survey at 6l. 13s. 4d. was seven furlongs long, six broad, whoever was lord of it, and paid 12d. gelt.

Cranworth is wrote Cranaworda in Doomsday-book.

SWATHING's and BOTETOURT's MANOR. The township, or lands, of Swathing being thus joined to that of Cranworth, became two distinct manors, or two moieties of the township of Cranworth, and as such we shall here treat of them in the order of time as we find them.

Swathing

Swathing was so considerable a lordship, that Runhall, in the hundred of Forehoe, was a beruite to it, and valued with it; it also extended into Hardingham.

The ancient family of de Gurney were lords of this town, Cranworth, and Letton, in the 14th of king John.

Edmund de Swathing, as lord, presented to the church of Cranworth in the reign of Edward I. and John de Gurney in the 9th of Edward II. impleaded William de Swathing for chasing his hares without his licence, in his free-warren of Swathing.

In the 15th of Edward I. Guy de Botetourt claimed free-warren in his demesne lands here, of this lordship; that family had been enfeoffed by the Gurneys.

The families of Kerebrook, Swinburn, Walcote, and Edmonds, seem to have had an interest in this town.

John Edmonds died in 1563, possessed of the manor of Botetourt, in Cranworth, held of lord Bardolph, of his manor of Cantele, and of the manor of Thompson; he was buried in St. Mary's church, Cranworth.

Henry Sharington, esq. who was steward to the bishop of Ely for his hundred of Mitford, was lord of Swathing's in the 12th of Henry VI. and presented to this church in 1435, and 1439; and his grandson, Thomas Sharington, esq. presented in 1522. He conveyed it to sir Richard Southwell, who in the year 1546 presented to this church, as lord of Swathing's manor; and in the 31st of Henry VIII. sir Christopher

pher Jenney, judge of the King's Bench, and fir John Jenney, knt. conveyed to fir Richard Southwell, by fine, the lordship of Botetourt.

From the Southwells the lordship came to the Cranes; William Crane, esq. presented in 1647, and 1663.

In 1680 Brampton Gurdon, esq. presented as lord, and his descendant, Thornhagh Gurdon, esq. in 1672.

Thomas Barrow was living here in the 24th of Elizabeth, and had lands here, and at Westhorpe, in Suffolk, which seem to come to them from the Esmonds.

Of the church of Swathing we find no memorial, being dilapidated many centuries past; that of Cranworth was a rectory, valued at ten marks in the reign of Edward I. Edmund de Swathing was patron, and the rector had then a manse and fifteen acres of land. The present value is 5l. 18s. 6d.

In the 38th of Henry VIII. June 26, this rectory and that of Letton were consolidated; and in 1603 the rector returned the number of communicants here, and in Letton, to be 120.

In the church is a monument to fir William Cooke, bart. of Broom-Hall, who died in 1708, aged 78.

On a grave-stone.—*John Williams, gent. some time servant to the right high and mighty prince, John duke of Suffolk, which John Williams died July 2, 1501.*

In the church of Cranworth, on the windows, were the arms of Sherington, Swathing, lord Scales, Mortimer

timer, of Attleburgh, lord Morley, Clifton, and Cailly. Whinbergh, Blundevile, Bottetourt, lord Bardolph, Brampton, Sharnington impaling Pirton of Effex.

In the 1st of Henry VIII. Thomas Sharnington made a new window in the north aile at the east end, also a new porch.

On a stone, in the north aile, were the arms of Swathing, it being likely their burial place. Gurdon quarters Sexton, Mounteney, Brampton, Clifton, Barton, Burgate, &c.

Here was the guild of St. John Baptist, and St. Mary; to her the church was dedicated.

The abbot of Wendling's temporalities were 22s. 1d. ob.

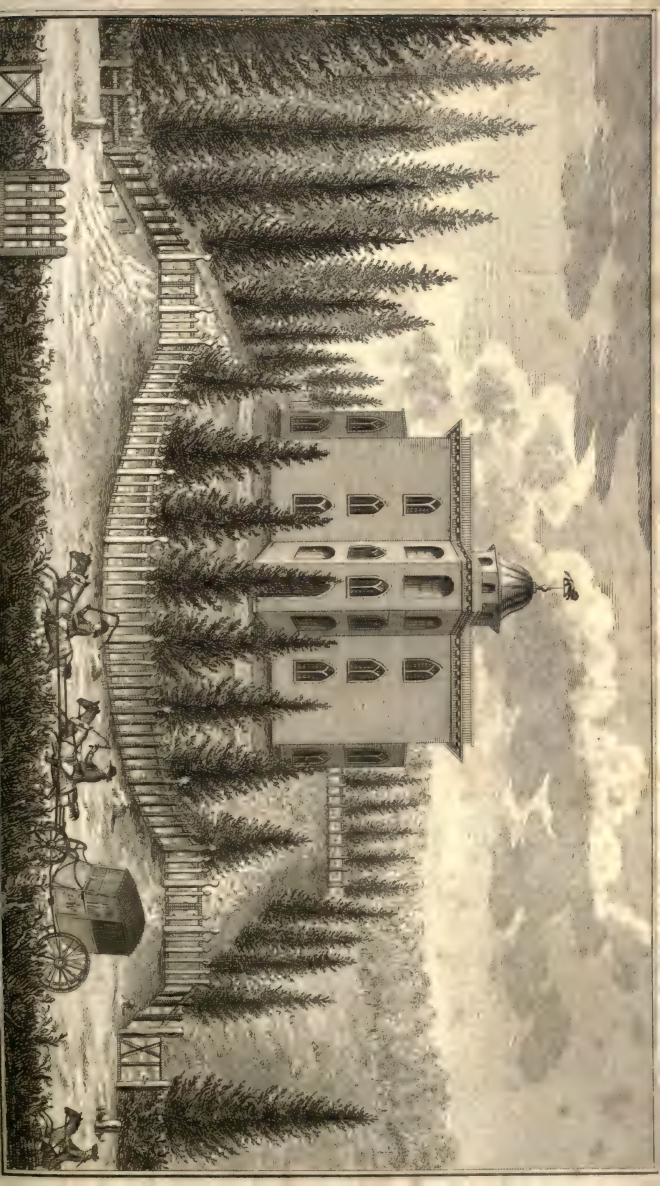
The town is seated where two streams, or rivulets, unite, as appears from the adjunct word, Worth; *Cran*, or *Curne*, signifies the turn of a river, and sometimes is the name of a river, as Cranbourne, in Dorsetshire, and Cranbrook, in Effex.

In 1762 the Rev. Robert Partridge was presented to the united rectory of Cranworth, with Letton, by Thornhagh Gurdon, esq. of Letton.

EAST DEREHAM. This market town is situated at the north-west point of the hundred of Mitford, and nearly in the centre of the county of Norfolk. It is sometimes spelled Dearham, Deerham, and anciently Derham.

East Dereham is one of the handsomest towns in the county, most delightfully situated on the east side of a rivulet, over which there is a bridge. It is a post town, through which the mail from London and Thetford, to Fakenham, Wells, and Holt, passes, and the coach between Norwich and Lynn-Regis. It has a weekly market on Friday, and fairs Feb. 3, and Sept. 28. The annual meeting of the western battalion of Norfolk militia used to be here to exercise for twenty-eight days, and the comedians from the theatre-royal in Norwich perform a few weeks here every other year. Here is also a genteel assembly-room, and two principal inns, the George and King's Arms. Several hamlets lie in the environs of the town, in some of which are neat villas of the gentry, particularly a house belonging to Samuel Rash, esq. but occupied by Edward Pratt, esq. called St. James's, with respect to its vicinity to a cottage called Whitehall.—Quebec-Castle, lately in the possession of sir John Odingeles Leeke, bart. is a handsome, yet humble imitation of something *grand*. Its situation on the highest ground in this country is incomparably well chosen, commanding a very extensive and beautiful prospect each way. The house itself is slight, but neat, and the rising plantation will contribute much to the landscape. We have been told, that Mr. Rash, who built this *fanciful* house, gave it its name in compliment to lord Townshend, who was second in command at the siege of Quebec.

Here were, till lately, no less than five justices of the peace in this parish, a circumstance probably not to be found in any town of the same size and consequence in the kingdom. John Fenn, esq. has a handsome house here, as also James Smyth, of Bradenham, William Girling, esq. of Twyford-lodge,
Mr.





Mr. Donne, Mr. Charles Marston, Mr. Thomas Smyth, &c.

East Dereham is sixteen miles from Norwich, thirty-eight from Yarmouth, twelve from Swaffham, twenty-six from Lynn-Regis, eighteen from Holt, twelve from Fakenham, twenty-two from Wells, eight from Litcham, ten from Watton, twenty-two from Thetford, eight from Hingham, and 102 from London. At the north end of the market-place stands a pillar, on which are marked the distances to most of the principal towns and seats in Norfolk, but we do not vouch for their accuracy: we, however, approve much of the intention of public intelligence of this kind.

It was burnt on the 1st of July, in the 23d of Elizabeth, as we learn from a book then published, and intitled,—“An account of the lamentable burning of East Dereham, in the county of Norfolk, July 1, 1581,” in verse, printed in black letter, in 1582, at London.

On the 3d of July, in the 21st of Charles II. it was again almost destroyed by fire, five persons were then burned, many horses and other cattle, and 170 houses; the loss by which was estimated at 11,020*l.* and by goods and merchandise at 8,423*l.* the whole amounting to 19,443*l.*

The principal manor in this parish is that of EAST DEREHAM of the QUEEN. This manor was granted to the monastery of Ely by Ethelwold bishop of Winchester, in the reign of the Saxon king Edgar, anno 963.

In Doomsday-book it is said to have belonged to the church, or monastery of Ely, and to consist of five carucates of land, and there were always three mills, &c. It was valued then at 10l. now at 13l. was one leuca long, half a leuca broad, and paid 15d. in gelt, or tribute.

This lordship continued a part of the possessions of the monastery of Ely till the foundation of the bishop's see there, in 1109, (in the 9th of Henry I.) when it was assigned to the bishop, and made a part of his barony.

From a M. S. book, intitled, "A Book of the Survey of the Manors belonging to the bishopric of Ely, taken in the time of Hugh de Ballham, bishop of Ely, and in the 21st year of his consecration," viz. in 1277, is extracted the following account of it:

"This lordship is in the bishop of Ely's hundred of Mitford, except the north street* of the town, and that is in the hundred of Launditch, (which belongs to John L'Strange, of Litcham) in which hundred the men inhabiting in the said street meet once a year to renew their pledges, at Strutteman's-dyke, in the presence of the bailiffs of both these hundreds, and pay a fine of 2s. *ne occasionentur*, (that they may not be disturbed, sued, or put to trouble) whereof the bishop's bailiff is to have 1s. 8d. and the bailiff of Launditch 4d. or to eat with the other bailiff at the bishop's charge."

"The

* Now called Dillington; it lies on the other side of Stunton-heath, on which heath the hundreds divide.

“ The advowson of the church of Dereham, with the chapel of Hoe, belongs to the bishop.—The church of Dereham is in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and deanry of Hingham.—The chapel of Hoe is in the archdeaconry of Norwich, and deanry of Brisley.”

The demefne lands are then described, the lands of the free and copyhold tenants, the rents, customs, services, heriots, &c. &c. the several commons belonging to the manor are abutted, and thus mentioned :

“ On Efflinger common † the towns of Yaxham, Mattishall, and Tuddenham, are to intercommon with the bishop’s tenants, but not to cut wood, or turf, without the bishop’s leave; the bishop and his tenants are likewise to intercommon on the other side of the bank with them, and in Tuddenham here.”

“ On Brunefnor common the town of Dereham, with the homage of William de Bellomonte, of Little Dereham, Gilbert de Fransham, of Scarning, and William de Stutevile, of Gressenhall, are to intercommon with the bishop as before, and the bishop and the town of Dereham with them, on Scarning common.”

“ On Bukemedede, the town of Dereham, the homage of William de Stutevile, in Gressenhall, of Thomas de Hereford, and Gilbert de Fransham, and the homage of William de Bellomonte, in Little Dereham, intercommon with the bishop, who with his tenants are to intercommon on the other side of the bank with them.”

B 3 “On

† Now Badley-moor.

“ On Galewetremor the whole town of Dereham intercommon with the bishop.”

“ On Northalegreen the town of Derham, and thirteen of the homage of William de Stuteville, and Thomas de Hereford, living near that common, intercommon with the bishop.”

“ On Estlingegreen the towns of Dereham, Yaxham, Mattishall, and Tuddenham, intercommon with the bishop.”

“ On Morgate-green the town of Dereham, the homage of William de Bellomonte, of Little Dereham, of William de Stuteville, and Gilbert de Frantsham, in Scarning, intercommon with the bishop, and the bishop and town of Dereham likewise intercommon with them in Berkeleshell.”

“ On Suthwodegreen the towns of Dereham, Yaxham, Mattishall, and Tuddenham, intercommon with the bishop.”

“ There is a common likewise in Hoe, called Apheltho, and Lyn Croft, in which the bishop's tenants, the tenants of William de Stuteville, and Thomas de Hereford, intercommon with the bishop.”

“ The bishop makes annually about 10l. of all the abovementioned commons.”

“ The tenants are to put their cattle on the above commons and lands, (except in those lands which are lately cleared of wood) from the time that harvest is finished to Lady-day, but the lord is first to put his cattle on, and in recompence for this right of common, the bishop's tenants are to plow his lands,
called

called Graferthe. The bishop has free-warren over the whole manor; he has likewise the fisheries of East-mill, Kirk-mill, and formerly he had that at Belhous-mill, but was late hindered there by the lady of Belhous manor, in Tuddenham — There are two water-mills, one wind-mill, and the bishop might erect another if he pleased. — The market is worth ten marks per ann. — The stock to be kept is ten cows, a free bull, thirty hogs, a free boar, and 200 sheep."

" The lady Alice Mareschall held three fees by knight's service of this manor — A fine, called child-wite, is to be paid for every bastard born, and another, called gersuma, upon the marriage of a son, or daughter. — A heriot is due of a death, or 20s. — The widow is entitled to half the husband's lands for life."

" Here is a wood belonging to the bishop, called Toft-wode, containing about 70 acres, and worth by the year 19s."

In the rolls of the King's Bench it appears that the bishop had a fair, and that the town was sixteen leucas distant from Norwich, by which it is plain that a leuca was then accounted only *one* mile, Dereham being exactly sixteen measured miles from Norwich.

The bishop had likewise a prison here for his hundred of Mitford, and return of writs* This gaol was near the market-house in the reign of Henry VI. some part of the wall is now standing, and is a part of a house near the assembly-room.

B 4

In

* This was leased in queen Elizabeth's reign, and the rent was 4l. 11s. 3d.

In the 2d and 3d of Philip and Mary, Edmund Pierpoint, the bishop's receiver, accounted for 52l. 14s. 9d. halfpenny profits of this manor for one year.

In the 1st of Elizabeth this manor, &c. &c. were by act of parliament granted to the crown; and in that year the rent of assize was 23l. 19s. of customary villains 14l. 5s. rent, called Hedermuth, 3s. 2d. moveable rent 1l. 1s. 8d. rent of the demesnes 13l. 13s. 2d. herbage 5s. 8d. a mill 6l. market and stalls 5l. 3s. 8d. one acre's rent 1s. 6d. profit of the fair 3s. 8d. the whole amounting to 62l. 19s. 6d.

In the 18th of James I. Charles prince of Wales, &c. &c. held his first court here.

In the 20th of James I. Miles Hobart, and Richard Grimes, esq. had a grant of the stewardship of this manor from Charles prince of Wales, during pleasure, and 54s. annual fee.

In the 14th of Charles I. Henrietta Maria, queen of England, held the manor, of whom it was farmed.

In the 4th of James II. Catherine, queen dowager, had the manor, and sir Charles Harbord, surveyor general, farmed it of her, and bought the reversion for his two sons, Philip Harbord, esq. and colonel John Harbord.

It belonged afterwards to ——— Shaw, esq. and came from him to the Byron family by marriage. The present lord is sir Charles Gould, bart. a colonel in the army, and judge advocate.

The

The bishop had a park belonging to this manor, which was granted to Messrs. Crompton, Wright, and Meyrick, and their heirs, by patent, dated in the 24th of Elizabeth.—John Duke, M. D. of Colchester, was seised of a moiety of it, (which he purchased of Mr. Fountain) and by his will gave it to Ann, his wife, who settled it in 1636 on Robert Paynell, of Norwich, gent. and Judith, his wife, one of the daughters and coheiresses of the said John, and Ann Duke, the said Paynell paying 800l. to Thomas Cook, and Elizabeth, his wife.

Dr. Fountain, dean of York, now owns one part of it, and ——— Evans, esq. grandson of Thomas Evans, esq. late recorder of Bury, owns the other*.

In 1600 Leonard Mapes, of Norwich, gent. was lord. In 1614 Leonard Mapes, esq. his son; and in 1625 Thomas Afty, gent. In 1703 Afty George, of East Dereham, gent. was lord. In 1724 Thomas George, of East Dereham, gent. and in 1764 Afty George, of Norwich, son of Thomas George, gent. was lord. This manor was lately sold and conveyed to Jeremiah Ives, esq. of the Town-close, near the city of Norwich, who is the present lord.

COLBOWRN'S, or MOWLE'S MANOR. John Bainard, esq. died possessed of this manor in the 14th of Edward IV. and devised it to be sold. In the 15th of Henry VIII. Henry Parker, of Moughton, was lord of it. In the 31st of Elizabeth there was a *præcipe* to William Stanhawe, gent. Robert Palmer, &c. to render to Thomas Heryng, gent. the manor of Colbourn's, Mowle's, or Massingham's, lying in East Dereham, Hoc, North Tuddenham, and Yaxham.

The

The lands belonging to this manor are said to be most of them manumised. The present lord is Jeremiah Ives, esq.

This at the survey was probably a part of Ralph de Beaufoe's lordship, called CREKE'S, or OLD-HALL'S MANOR. Ralph de Beaufoe had a lordship here, which Harold held as a lay-fee of Stigand archbishop of Canterbury. In king Edward the Confessor's reign it was granted to Ralph, under whom Odar held it: in the Confessor's time it was valued at 20s. at the conquest at 40s. The whole was one leuca and five furlongs long, half a leuca and three furlongs broad, and paid 10d. gelt. The whole soc was in the king's manor of Mileham.

This lordship stands accounted for under the hundred of Launditch, as belonging to Mileham manor, and lying in the parish of Dereham; it also extended into Scarning, and was called Drayton-hall, in Scarning, from its ancient lords, the Draytons.

In the 14th of Henry III. Agnes, one of the daughters and coheirresses of William de Drayton, who married William Lenvevse, had it assigned her on a division of his inheritance.

After this William de Bellomonte was lord of it, in the 5th of Edward I.

In the 11th of Edward III. Nicholas Oldhall possessed it. From this Nicholas descended sir William Oldhall, who on the 20th of July, in the 10th of Henry VI. had the king's protection, being then abroad in France, in the retinue of Thomas duke of Exeter. He was afterwards speaker of the House of Commons, and attainted of treason, for being concerned

cerned in Jack Cade's rebellion in Kent, and a writ of outlawry was confirmed against him by parliament about the 33d of Henry VI. By his daughter and heiress, Mary, his manors came to Walter Gorges, esq. who was found to die seised of the manor of Oldhall and Cieke's in the 6th of Edward IV. From this family it came to sir William Capel, who died lord in the 7th of Henry VIII. and his descendant, the right honorable William Anne Holles Capel, earl of Essex, is the present lord.

Here is another small manor, called the RECTORY MANOR; of this the rector is lord.

The church of East Dereham is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and has a chapel belonging to it at Hoe; it was valued with that at one hundred and ten marks, and the vicarage at fourteen marks. The rectory is a sinecure, valued in the king's books at 41l. 3s. 1d. farthing, and has the patronage of the vicarage, which is valued at 17l. 3s. 4d. The present rector is the Rev. Francis Wollaston, L. L. D. and F. R. S. of Charterhouse-square, in London, and Chiffelhurst, in Kent.

It appears by a receipt without any date, of Hugo Monaldi, and others, citizens of Florence, that they received of the prior of Wymondham 120 marks sterling, (the profits of this church) wherein the said prior was bound to the bishop of Ostia, in Italy, and rector of this parish.

In 1240 Robert Passelaw, chaplain to Henry III. was rector of East Dereham; he was chancellor of the exchequer, archdeacon of Lewes, and elected by the canons bishop of Chichester, in the 30th of that reign, but was set aside, and died rector.

In the list of institutions to this parish we find amongst its rectors many eminent men.

In 1534 the famous, or rather infamous, Edmund Bonner, L. L. D. was collated to this rectory by the bishop of Ely. In 1538 he was installed bishop of Hertford, and in 1540 bishop of London. In 1549 he was deprived and committed to prison by Edward VI. and restored again by Mary in 1553, and employed by that bloody queen in *persecuting* the Protestants in 1555; flighted by queen Elizabeth, and despised by all men in 1558: he died in the Marshalsea, Sept. 5, 1569. He was the natural son of a priest, named Savage, but his mother, Elizabeth Frodsham, marrying Edmund Bonner, of Henley, in Worcestershire, he was called by his name.

On the 28th of September, 1579, the patronage of this rectory, and that of Terrington, was granted for a time to William Deighton, of Stanfield, in Lincolnshire, gent.

The rectories of East Dereham, and Terrington, were leased (being sinecures) by James I. on March 8, 1612, to sir William Pooley, his executors, &c. with the advowsons, for ninety years.

John Winter, rector here in 1664. was author of a book, intituled, *Specilegium*, &c. printed in quarto, for William Oliver, at Norwich, 1664.

The Rev. James Verdon, A. M. was rector sixty-three years, and died in 1741, aged 89.

In 1761 the Rev. Francis Wollaston, L. L. D. was presented to this rectory by Francis Wollaston, esq.
p. h. v.

In

In 1479 John Goofe, the vicar, gave a house in Baxter-row*, and three inclosures, to the town; and his successor, Roger Balkewell, gave all his lands, both free and copyhold, to the succeeding vicars.

In 1603 there were six hundred and fixty communicants.

In 1769 the Rev. John Curry was presented to the vicarage of East Dereham, consolidated with Hoe chapel in 1533, by the Rev. Dr. Wollaston, rector and patron, by lease.

The Rev. George Thomas, brother to the right Rev. Dr. Thomas, bishop of Rochester, is the present vicar, and resides at the vicarage-house here.

This church is a large pile, built in the form of a cathedral, or collegiate church; it has a nave, north and south ailes, two transepts, or cross ailes, and a chancel, all leaded. There is a tower between the body of the church and the chancel, which is of antique building, as in many cathedrals; in the transepts were formerly the chapels of the Holy Cross, St. Mary, St. Wihburga, &c. The south, or Holy Cross chapel, was repaired by the family of the Botons, who lived in the time of Henry VII. The treasury, or ammunition chamber, was over this chapel, for the keeping of which a salary was annually paid till the reign of Henry VIII.

The south porch was built by Roger and Margaret Boton, whose names are now to be seen in the stonework.

The

* So called from a family of that name, who owned most of it in the time of Henry VI.

The font is very handsome ; it is of stone, the form octangular : there are the representation of our Saviour's crucifixion, and the seven sacraments of the Romish church. carved upon it, below which are eight of the Apostles at full length, and at the eight corners beneath them are the four Evangelists, and the symbol of each, namely, an angel, lion, bull, and eagle.

The ascent up to it is by a double octagon ; the upper octagon is curiously worked in the Gothic taste ; it was erected in 1468.

The following extract from an old church account of the expence of erecting it is very curious :

“ COSTS of the new FUNTE.”

	li.	s.	d.
“ <i>Imprimis.</i> Payd to the mason quan he toke the seyde funte in arnest -			iiij
<i>Item.</i> Payd for makynge of an obligacion, in which he was bound for the seyde werk - - - -			iiij
<i>Item.</i> Payd for lying of the fre stone that was for the seyde funte, atte Lynne - - - -			xxij
<i>Item.</i> Payd for cranyng of the seyde stone - - - -	ij		viiij
<i>Item.</i> Payd for caryng iiij lods of the seyde fre stone fro Lynne to Est Dereham, per i lod caryng ijs. vjd.			
— Suma		x	
<i>Item.</i> Payd to Thomas Flatfote for caryng of iij lodes of fre stone be the seyde space, takynge for a lode iijs. - - - -			
Suma		ix	

Item.

li. s. d.

<i>Item.</i> Payd for di chaldyr of lyme xxd. and cc tyle bowt atte Norwich xvjd. - - -	<i>Suma</i>	iiij	
<i>Item.</i> Payd to Robert Crane for cary- ing of the feyd lyme and tyle -			xx
<i>Item.</i> Payd to Ric. Westhawe for iron work to the feyd funte - -			xj
<i>Item.</i> In expens upon help quan the funte was in the reysing - -			ij
<i>Item.</i> Payd to the mason for werk- manship of the feyd funte - -	x		
<i>Item.</i> To his reward - - -		xx	
<i>Item.</i> Paid to Will. Plomer for led- ing of the new funte - -		ij	v
<i>Item.</i> Payd Will. Pylche for makyng of the stole to the funte, and the keveryng of the same - -			xx
<i>Item.</i> Payd for makyng of aquetance betwyx our mason and us - -			ij
<hr/>			
<i>Suma</i>	xij	xiiij	ix

Of this money fifty shillings and two-pence was raised by a voluntary subscription of the inhabitants; the rent of the church lands, (at that time very small) the Sunday gatherings, and the legacies, or questword of the deceased, supplied the rest, and were the funds from which the church was repaired and ornamented.

To this stone font, in the year 1678, was added a Gothic top, ornamented in the taste of the time, and supported by four fluted pillars.

Before the font, facing the middle aisle, stands a fine large brass eagle, on a pedestal of the same, supported

ported by three small lions; it is gilt, and was formerly used as a litany desk.

In the middle aisle hangs a brass branch, consisting of a double circle of candlesticks, twelve in each circle; it was purchased in 1738, and cost 25l.

The church is very regularly and handsomely seated, the fronts of the seats towards the middle aisle are of pannelled wainscot; there is an exceeding good vestry, with proper cases for town writings, &c.

In the beginning of the sixteenth century, (1501) and in the latter part of the reign of Henry VII. the tower in the middle of the church was thought not strong enough for the bells; part of that and the bells were then taken away, and the large tower (then called the new clocker) in the church-yard, on the south side, and about twenty yards from the chancel, was begun; it was several years in building, and benefactions towards carrying it on were given from 1508 to 1516; in it are now a clock and eight bells; it was never compleated, but the present flat roof was put up and leaded in the reign of Henry VIII.

There are monuments, marble-stones, and other memorials to the memory of the following persons, interred in the church and chancel.

There was formerly round the rim of an old stone, still remaining, a brass, with this inscription:—*Orate pro anima Walteri. quondam vicarij hujus ecclesiæ, qui obiit 1349.*—This was in memory of Walter de Stutelee.

The following brasses still remain:—*Orate pro anima Magistris Kelyng, quondam vicarij istius ecclesiæ, qui obiit xxv die mensis Septembris, anno Domini 1479, cujus anime propicietur Deus.*—*Orate pro aia Etheldrede Castell, que ob. 1486.*

John Kylvyngton, esq. was buried 1490.—*Orate p. aia Robti. Palmer, qui ob. 1491.*—*Orate p. aia Grace Braddenham, que ob.*

On a brass this imperfect epitaph, in memory of
----- Aquila.

*Alta petens Aquila istac jam conditur aula
Qui manet precibus justorum gaudia lucis,
Hic rexit ternis viginti da ----- annis,
Luce sepultus ea fuerat dran ----- te Maria,
Anno Millesno D'ni. quingentenoque trino.*

Under it, on a shield, a chevron, and in base an eagle, with a label, inscribed,

*Benedictus Deus in donis ejus,
Orate p. aia Joh'nis Paynter, qui ob. 1526.*

In the church was formerly a verse inscription to William Cutting, who died March 4, 1599, aged 50.

There are many other old stones, but as the brasses are gone, nothing can be said of them.

Henrie Perrimond, ob. 1637.—*Anne Perrimond, ob. 1643.*—*Elizabeth Ward, ob. 1644.*—*Thomas Asly, gent. obi. 1704.*—*Thomas Margetson, ob. 1705.*

In the chancel is a monument, with an inscription to Ann, the first wife of James Verdon, M. A. daughter of William Balam, esq. who died Feb. 13, 1684, and several of their children.

Also, a monument in the chancel, to James Verdon, M. A. rector and vicar here, who died in 1741, aged 89 years.

The following lines on the tomb of Lydia Pillans, late wife of Mr. Richard Pillans, merchant, of Rotterdam, are well worth insertion:

*They in both countries who knew her,
Know their loss and mourn it:
They who knew her not, have a real loss
In wanting an example so worthy imitation.*

On a very handsome mural monument are the arms of Clarke impaling Verdon, with an inscription to the Rev. Samuel Clarke, A. M. of Trinity college, Oxford, *obijt* March 11, 1761, *ætatis* 66.

A neat Gothic monument for—*Elizabeth, wife of Samuel Rash, esq. who died 1768, aged 40.*

Besides these, there are grave-stones and monuments in memory of several persons of this parish.

From the parish register it appears, that in the year 1547 here died, during the months of March, April, and May, 106 persons.

At the west end of the church-yard are the ruins of a very ancient baptistry, over which was formerly a small chapel, dedicated to St. Withburga.

At the east end of the baptistry there is now remaining a curious old Gothic arch, from which runs a spring of clear water*, formerly said to have had many

* At some distance from the church-yard is another spring, called St. Withburga's-well.

many medicinal and healing qualities. The fabulous account is, that this spring took its rise in the church-yard, from the place where St. Withburga was first buried. In the year 1752 it was arched over, and converted into a cold bath.

In 650 a nunnery of Benedictines was founded here by Anna* king of the East Angles, for Withburga, his youngest daughter, whom he made prioress. This house is reported to have been so very poor at its institution, that by the prayers of their prioress the nuns are said to have been miraculously supported by two does, which came constantly to be milked at a certain time and place; this resource was but of short continuance, for the bailiff of the town envying them this supply, most maliciously hunted them away with his hounds, and as a *judgment* upon him soon after broke his neck as he was pursuing his favourite diversion of hunting.

Withburga died, and was buried in the church-yard; after which the Pagan Danes coming into England, the nunnery was destroyed, and the church made parochial: this happened about fifty-five years after her decease.

About the year 789 her body, being found uncorrupted, was taken up, and translated into the church, where it remained near 200 years, when, to compleat her story, we are told, that Brithnod, abbot of Ely, and his monks, concerted a scheme for conveying her body from thence to Ely, which they effected by having men and carriages stationed upon the road ready to receive it from those appointed to steal it

C 2 away.

* Bishop Tanner says, that Withburga herself founded the above priory.

away. Their scheme succeeded, and they brought the body to Brandon-ferry, where it was put on board a vessel, from thence conveyed to Ely, and there enshrined, before the men from Dereham could take any step to recover it.

This is filed by the *Historia Eliensis*,—"Sanctum Sacrilegium—Fidele furtum,—Salutaris rapina."—That is, a *sanctified* sacrilege,—a *pious* fraud,—a *soul-saving* robbery;—it was indeed a robbing of Peter to pay Paul.—Her *obijt* was kept on the 17th of March.

Here was a famous guild, or society, of this With-burga, which had a strong brick house, called the Guildhall, where their feasts were kept, and other ceremonies performed.

This was dissolved by Henry VIII. and in the 2d of Edward VI. was granted to Thomas Wodehouse, of Waxham, esq. and his heirs, for ever; he the next year granted it to William Skarlett, and William Atle, both of East Dereham, who the same year granted it to John Cane, clerk, of the same place, with all the appurtenances which it had before the dissolution, consisting of five tenements, twenty acres of land, and a rent charge of 2s. 2d. out of lands, called the Headborough lands, all which were for the maintenance of the fraternity belonging to the guild, and originally given to pray for the souls of certain persons deceased, and for the souls of the faithful in general. This house now belongs to James Smyth, esq. of Bradenham, in South Greenhoc.

In 1615 is an entry in the town accounts of a payment of 30s. to Mr. Halman, for charges in confirming the assurance of the old shire-house to the town.

Over the eastern entrance of the church-yard was formerly a school-house belonging to the parish, which was taken down in 1662.

The rectory-house is dilapidated.—There are a large barn, a granary, one close of meadow of about six acres, and another small piece of meadow, at the west end of the church-yard, of about half an acre, belonging to the rector.

The vicar has a very good house, gardens, &c. and about fifty acres of glebe land.

There are upwards of fifty-three acres of meadow and arable land belonging to the church, which, most of them, lie in the parish;—the rents, amounting to 50l. per ann. and upwards, are appropriated to the repairing and ornamenting the church.

Benefactions to the poor, amounting to between 40 and 50l. a year, are distributed in money and wearing apparel to the poor inhabitants (who do not take collection) every Christmas.

There are likewise upwards of twenty acres of land, called Headborough land, lying chiefly in this parish, the rent of which is to keep the streets, bridges, &c. &c. in proper condition.

Mr. Aaron Williamson in 1710 gave a dwelling-house, and a small piece of land, called Roomes, the rent of which is to be applied in putting out poor orphans apprentices to trades.

GARVESTON, GARWESTON, or GORNAVTON, in Doomsday-book occurs by the name of Gerolfestuna, and part of it was a beruite to the manor of Whinbergh,

bergh, held by Hermerus de Ferrariis, of which Turchetel, a free-man, lord in king Edward's reign, had been deprived: this part was valued together with Whinbergh, and measured with it, and a church endowed with seven acres.

Another part of this town was also held by Hermerus, of which nineteen free-men had also been deprived, valued in king Edward's time at 20s. at the survey at 55s. and 4d.

The hundred testifies that Hermerus's predecessor had no customary dues from these free-men, but only their protection: on this there was a challenge to try it by combat, which one of the men, or tenants, of Hermerus accepted of, to *prove* that the predecessor of Hermerus had all the customary dues in the reign of king Edward except the soc that belonged the church of Ely, who had the hundred court, &c. This part of Garveston was five furlongs long, and four broad, and paid 13d. gelt.

The town takes its name from the river Gar, which arises here. Gar, or Yare, is a British name, and frequently met with: thus Garboldisham, and Gerboisthorpe, in Norfolk; Garford, and Garston, in Bedfordshire; Garforth, in Yorkshire, &c. and also this river gives name to Yarmouth, or Gernemutha, where it empties itself into the British ocean.

Hermerus's descendant assumed the name of de Wormegay, and by the heiress of de Wormegay it came to Reginald de Warren, second son of William earl Warren, and from that family to the Bardolphs, barons of Wormegay.

Robert

Robert de Gerneſton held it of lord Bardolph in the 35th of Henry III. and in the 38th of that king William lord Bardolph had a charter of free-warren, and a fair, being lord and patron.

This lordſhip, on the attainder of Thomas lord Bardolph, was granted to ſir Thomas Beaufort, knt. afterwards duke of Exeter, the king's brother, in the 9th of Henry IV. with the honour of Wormegay. On his dying without iſſue, ſir William Phelips, in right of his lady, had a grant of it, and it came from him to John viſcount Beaumont, and on the death of William lord Beaumont to the crown; and in 1537 Richard Southwell, eſq. preſented to the church as lord and patron.

After this it was in the Cranes, of Wood-Riſing, then in ſir Robert Clayton, and William Clayton, eſq. member of parliament for Great Marlow, in Bucks, is the preſent lord and patron.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, and is a rectory. The ancient value is 15 marks; the preſent value is 7l. 16s. It is a ſmall pile, and has two ailes and a chancel; at the weſt end a tower with four bells.

A marble grave-ſtone in the chancel for—*Stephen Pool, rector, who died November 22, 1703, aged 48.*

The chancel was out of repair, and had not been uſed for many years, till Mrs. Barbara Lock, who kept a little alehouſe near the church, gave 200l. to the repair of the church and chancel, and 100l. to the poor of the pariſh, about 1695. The font is ancient, adorned with carving, and the church is neat, in good repair, and covered with lead.

In 1425 sir Reginald Cobham presented, but in 1428 Thomas Echingham, esq. recovered the presentation against sir Reginald Cobham, lord de Sterburgh, for that time.

In 1603 the rector certified that there were 195 communicants.

In the church windows are the arms of Whinbergh, impaling azure, on a bend, gules, cottised, argent, 3 martlets, or.

In 1744 sir William Clayton presented; and in 1776 William Clayton, esq. M. P. presented the Rev. George Thomas to this rectory.

HARDINGHAM and FLOCKTHORPE. The town of Hardingham is not mentioned in the book of Doomſday, and was then, no doubt, a hamlet, or little village, included in the township of Flockthorpe, whereas that has been depopulated for many centuries, and is now included in Hardingham.

The Conqueror had in Flockthorpe a considerable lordſhip, which Godric farmed, or took care of, for him, of which Hacon, ſon of Swain, the eldeſt ſon of Godwin, earl of Kent, and nephew to king Harold, was deprived, who was lord of it in king Edward's reign. The whole was then valued at 5l. at the ſurvey at 10l. and was one leuca long, and half a one broad, and paid 28d. gelt.

Besides this lordſhip, the Conqueror had in his own hands here land, &c. valued under Hingham.

CAMOIS MANOR. Out of theſe tenures aroſe two lordſhips; one was in the family of de Camois, who
was

was soon after the conquest enfeoffed of it. Andrew de Camois was a baron of the realm in the reign of Henry II.

In the 10th of Edward I. David earl of Huntingdon in England, and of Carrick in Scotland, a younger son of David king of Scotland, had the custody of Stephen de Camois, a minor, and his lands, and owed the king 200 marks for the same.

Ralph de Camois held in Flockthorpe one fee, and a fourth part of one in Hardingham, of the king *in capite*, in the 12th of king John; and in the 27th of Henry III. he was sheriff of Suffex and Surrey.

In the 5th of Edward I. John de Camois was summoned to attend the king into Wales, in his expedition against Lewellyn prince of Wales; he paid 100l. relief for his lands, In the 15th of that king he claimed free-warren here, &c. This was that John who married Margaret, daughter and heir of John de Gatefden; in the 26th of that king she came before the barons of the exchequer, and was filed late wife of sir John de Camois, and took an oath not to marry without the king's licence, holding lands *in capite*.

Dugdale says, sir John de Camois, by deed, &c. granted her over to her gallant, sir William Paynel, whom she afterwards married, and recovered her dower, but by the judgment of parliament in the 30th of Edward I. was deprived of it.

Thomas de Camois conveyed it by fine, with the king's licence, to John de Holveston, who presented in 1342, and 1349, and died lord of this manor, it being then valued at 20l. per ann.

Sir Thomas de Holveston died about the 38th of the said king, seised of it.

In the 3d of Henry IV. sir Thomas Barre was lord, and before this, in 1392, presented as lord in right of his wife, Elizabeth, who both presented in 1417, and about this time there was a contest for the right of advowson between the said sir Thomas and Robert Hill, of Marsham, and John Crane.

Elizabeth, wife of sir Thomas, died in the 9th of Henry V. seised of this lordship and advowson. She was, before her marriage with sir Thomas, relict of sir Edward Kendal, of Wrestlingworth, in Bedfordshire; and in the 24th of Edward III. sir Edward, and the said Elizabeth his wife, had the king's licence to travel to Rome, with four persons, and four horses.

Sir Thomas Camois is said to have granted it to sir John Arundel, afterwards earl of Arundel, who granted it to sir Maurice Berkley, who presented to the church in 1444, and in 1445 William earl of Arundel.

Thomas earl of Arundel was lord and patron in 1404, as was Henry earl of Arundel in the 38th of Henry VIII.

This Henry sold this lordship about the 1st of Elizabeth to Thomas Gresham, esq. of London; and in 1580 it was sold by lady Gresham, with ten messuages, and a fold-course for 1000 sheep, for 1500l. valued at 66l. 13s. 4d. per annum, to Anthony Thwayte, Esq. together with the advowson, who soon after conveyed it to sir George Coppin, with all its appurtenances, situate, lying, and being on the north side of the king's highway, called Olley-Way,
leading

leading from Hardingham church towards Kimberley, but excepting the right of advowson.

The said sir John Coppin, of Kenfington, sold it December 1, in the 6th of James I. to Thomas Bateman. Esq. and his heirs; and Anthony Bateman, esq. of Hardingham-hall, died seised of the manor of Flockthorpe, and left a daughter and co-heiress Philadelphia, married to William Rochester, esq. of the Middle Temple.

After this. ——— Tayler, esq. a justice of the peace, was lord, and lived at Hardingham-hall, and left a daughter and heiress, Constance, married to Robert Rugg, gent. by whom she had three daughters and a son, Thomas Rugg, gent. who was lord in 1660, but dying without issue, the estate was divided among his sisters and co-heiresses, and their children.

About the 6th of William and Mary, John Pargrave, esq. John Meres, of London, gent. and Richard Parker, had a right here. About the year 1713 Ambrose Meers, of Easton by Norwich, is said to have three parts of the said lordship, and George le Hunt, of New Buckenham, a fourth part.

GURNEY'S and SWATHING'S MANOR. The Gurneys were so early as the reign of king John enfeoffed of a moiety of this town.

Hugh de Gurney granted, by deed without date, to Robert, the Burgundian, the manor of Swathing, in Hardingham, with the manor and appurtenances in fee, for 20s. sterling per ann. and for the gift of one horse at the time of making this grant. It was granted at Ferretre, a town probably in Normandy, the Gurney's being lords of Gourney, a town in Normandy,

Normandy, from which they took their name, and came into England on the Norman invasion, and this Hugh gave to the chapter of the church of St. Ildebert, of Gourney, in Normandy, the said church.

In the 41st of Henry III. Ralph Redker conveyed lands to William de Swathing, and in the 52d of that king, William de Swathing held of John de Gurney a messuage, fifty-four acres of land, and three of wood, in this town and Reymerston, with free grinding, without toll, at John's-mill, called Ravensholm, as he and his ancestors before had at Little-mill, whilst Little-mill was repairing; and if they should be both out of repair, that they could grind at neither, then John to pay 6s. 5d. per ann. till they could grind.

John likewise granted to William, and his heirs, a free bull, and ram, with a free fold-course, and common of pasture over all his lands for all his cattle (*tempore aperto*) in time of slack, as his ancestors had.

Anthony Gurney, esq. was lord in the 26th of Henry III. and soon after it was in the family of Thwayte.

Anthony Thwayte, esq. granted in 1589 to Thomas Thwayte, esq. of Hardingham, his father, and to Richard, Thomas, and Francis, his brothers, all his right in the manor of Swathing.

This family were descended from John Thwayte, esq. who had possessions in this town in the reign of Henry VII.

Anthony Thwayte, esq. died, in the 31st of Elizabeth, lord of Quiddenham, in Guiltcross, by the marriage

marriage of Frances, daughter and heir of Humphrey Bedingfield, esq. and also lord of this manor; and leaving a daughter and sole heiress, Elizabeth, married to Jeffrey Cobb, esq. of Sandringham, was buried in the chapel of St. Mary, in this church.

About 1695 Richard Thwayte is said to be lord, and soon after it was possessed by Francis Long, esq. of Spixworth, lord in 1718.

The church was dedicated to St. George; in the reign of Edward I. it was valued at thirty-five marks, and the rector had a manse with sixty acres.

The present value is 15l. 3s. 4d. and pays first fruits and tenths.

In 1603 the rector returned 162 communicants to be here; in 1758 the patronage was in Clarehall, Cambridge.

In a north chapel, dedicated to St. Mary,—*Orate p. a'ia. Margarete Whytwell, olim uxor Joh. Whytwell, que migravit de hoc seculo 25 Jan. 1497*; and the arms of Whytwell, impaling Appleyard.

Orate p. a'ia. Geor. Thwayt, Gent.—and a grave-stone for Edward Thwayt, gent.

Pope Eugenius, by bull, confirmed the grant of the noble woman Mabilia de Bec, of lands, and the men of John, son of Ablac, in Flockthorpe, with their customs and services, to the church of the Holy Trinity of Norwich.

The temporalities of Norwich priory were 63s. 4d.—of Wymondham 5s.—of Hickling 6d.

In

In 1759 the Rev. William Greene was presented to this rectory by the master and fellows of Clarehall, Cambridge.

Edward Paulet Heyhoe, esq. has a handsome seat in Hardingham; as also has Thomas Grigson Payne, esq. both fronting the common, about one mile from Hingham.

HOCKERING, called in Doomfday-book Hoke-linka, as lying on a hill by the water, was the lordship of Ralph de Bellofago, or Beaufoe, of which Sigar, a free-man in king Edward's reign, was deprived. It was then valued at 4l. at the survey at 5l. and was measured in North Tuddenham.

This Ralph de Beaufoe was a near relation to William de Beaufoe, bishop of Thetford, the Conqueror's chancellor. Ralph left an only daughter and heiress, Agnes, who married Hubert de Rie, castellan, or keeper, of Norwich castle, second son of Hubert de Rie, a trusty servant to the Conqueror, when duke of Normandy.

His descendant, and probably grandson, was Hubert de Rie, who in the 12th of Henry II. certified that he held thirty-five knights fees, for which he paid thirty-five marks to the king, and dying in the 18th of that king without issue male, his two daughters and co-heiresses were, Aliva, who married John Marshall, (nephew of William Marshall, earl of Pembroke) made marshal of Ireland by king John, in his 9th year, and Isabel, the wife of Roger de Cressi.

In the 13th of king John, John Marefchall was lord of this town; and Aliva, or Avelina le Marefchall,

chall, had a dispute with Maud de Belhous, about the moiety of the fishery of Kerwen, in North Tuddenham-Falldgate, right of common in Kerwen, and taking of reed, &c. in Whytford, within the old bounds, and about swans.

John le Mareschall, in the 6th of Edward I. held this lordship and advowson, as the capital manor of the barony of Rye, and died seised of thirty-eight manors, and two hundreds, in Norfolk, in the 11th of Edward I. and in the 15th of that king he had a weekly market in this town on Monday.

On the death of John le Marshall, in the 10th of Edward II. there was a capital messuage, and a park here, a wood called Swinchaugh, with a little wood, a water-mill, and wind-mill, &c. valued at 50l. per ann. and Hawysia was his sister and sole heiress, married to sir Robert de Morley.

Sir Robert de Morley, and the lady Hawysia his wife, paid their relief for all this barony, 100 marks, in 1323; in this noble family it remained till the death of Robert lord Morley, in 1442, who left an only daughter and heiress, Alianore, after married to William, a younger son of William Lovell, lord of Tichmerth, who died seized of it in 1475.

Henry Lovell, lord Morley, his son and heir, inherited it, and being slain at Dixmue, in Flanders, in 1489, having no issue, Alice, his only sister, married to sir William Parker, of London, inherited it, and had livery in the 5th of Henry VII.

Henry Parker, his son and heir, was summoned to parliament in the 21st of Henry VIII. by the title of lord Morley, baron of Rye.

Sir

Sir Henry Parker, knt. was lord Morley, baron of Rye, in 1561. His son, Edward, sold great part of his estate to sir Thomas Lovell, of East-Harling, and sir Francis, his son, inherited it, and died about 1625, and then it came to his brother, sir Charles Lovell, who was lord in the reign of Charles I.

Thomas Berney, esq. of Swardeston, was lord in 1658, John Berney, esq. in 1676; Thomas Berney, esq. in 1720; and Ash Windham, esq. in 1740.

It is probable that here was anciently a castle, as it was the capital manor of the barony of Rye.

The rent of assise of free and customary tenants of this manor in the 36th of Henry VIII. was 2*l.* 4*d.*

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and is a rectory, valued formerly at fifteen marks. The canons of St. Mary of Southwark had a portion of tithe, valued at 4*os.* per ann. and the prior of Norwich one of four marks per ann. The present value is 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* It is a single pile, with a chancel, has a round tower with one bell, and stands near the road at the east of the village.

In the chancel, on a grave-stone,—*Hic Jacet Tho. Houghton, clericus, qui obt. 13 Martij, 1677, et Maria, uxor ejus, quæ obt. 22 Octob. 1635.*

On one, with a brass plate, and arms,

** Millesimo quingentesimo anno ter quoq; deno,
Et nono Domini, dum rex Henricus et annum
Primum post decem tres regni octavus agebat
Hic fuit Humfridus Smalpeice, æstate sepultus.*

This

* Viz. Ao. D'nni. 1539, et Hen. VIII. Ao. 31.

This family of Smalpeice had a very considerable estate in this town.

The patronage seems to have been given to the convent of St. Mary Overy, in Southwark, who presented at the nomination of the Morley family.

Roger Hunne, the rector in 1374, was sued by six persons for disposing of the trees growing in the church-yard, at his pleasure.

In 1603 the rector accounted for eighty-four communicants here, and that Martin Trot was patron, and lately the Lovells.

In the 6th of king John a fine was levied between John Marshall, lord of the town, and Alice, his wife, and the prior of St. Mary of Southwark, who then granted to John, &c. the advowsons of this church, and that of Mattishall-Bergh, with the consent of the bishop of Norwich; the prior and his successors were to have a pension of six marks per ann. out of these churches, the prior to present, and John and his heirs to nominate, which is the first time we meet with such a distinction; and in the 17th of Edward I. the prior recovered the six marks, by suit, of Robert de Wetherby, rector.

Henry I. confirmed to the priory of Norwich the grant of Hubert de Ria, of the tithe of his demesnes here. This portion was valued at four marks per ann. the temporalities of Norwich priory at 12d. of Pentney at 4s. of Carrowe at 3s.

Thomas lord Morley aliened in the 13th of Richard II. to the Austin friars of Thetford a messuage, and
D four

four acres of land in Thetford, and tenements here, &c.

The township had in the 36th of Henry VIII. seven acres of meadow land, in five pieces, in broad meadow, and paid to the lord 10d. per ann. also a guild-hall, and paid a halfpenny per ann. also half an acre of meadow, and paid 1d. and an alder car of an acre, and paid 1d.

The village of Hockering lies on the turnpike road, ten miles from Norwich, and six from East Dereham.

In 1742 the Rev. George Howes was presented to this rectory, consolidated with Mattishall-Burgh, by Mr. Matthew Postlethwaite, *p. h. v.*

LETTON, wrote Lettuna in Doomsday-book. William earl Warren had the lordship of this town at the survey, of which nine free-men had been deprived, valued in king Edward's time at 10s. but now at 20s. and there was a church endowed with twelve acres; it was six furlongs long, five broad, and paid 15d. gelt.

In 1161 Gilbert de Rising was lord, and a great benefactor to the priory of Lewes; and Roger de Frevile conveyed in the 11th of king John, to Adam de Moundeford, rent of 20s. per ann. here.

Simon de Heacham, and his parceners, in 1277, had the homage of Morehoe; Richard Fitz-Warren the homage of Frevile; and in the 7th of Edward I. Richard de Breccles conveyed to Robert de Weasthorp messuages and lands here.

Michael



M. L. L. L.

L. H. G. G. G.



Michael de Poinings, and his tenants, had lands held of the earl of Warren's fee in the 9th of Edward II. and Robert de Scales the fourth part of a fee in the 6th of Edward III.

In the 20th of Edward III. Thomas Howard, and Robert Curson, held here and in Shipdham a quarter of a fee of Michael Poinings; and this was held of the earl of Arundel in the 3d of Henry IV.

After this it was in the Bramptons, and came to John Gurdon, esq. eldest son of Robert Gurdon, esq. of Affington, in Suffolk, by the marriage of Amy, sole daughter and heiress of William Brampton, esq. of Letton, son of sir Thomas Brampton.

This John was high sheriff of Suffolk in 1585, and died in 1623, leaving Brampton Gurdon, esq. his son and heir; and by his second wife, Muriel, daughter of sir Martin Sidley, of Morley, in Norfolk, was father of Brampton Gurdon, esq. living in 1664, who married Mary, daughter of Henry Pollard, of London, gent. by whom he had Brampton Gurdon, esq. and by his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Thornhagh, of Fenton, in Nottinghamshire, left Thornhagh Gurdon, esq. father of Thornhagh Gurdon, esq. by Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of sir William Cook, bart. lord of this town.

LEWES PRIORY MANOR. Gilbert de Rising in 1161 gave to this priory, in Suffex, by deed (wherein he calls the monks *his lords*) half the soccage of Letton, for fifteen years; and after the coming of the king into England, when he sent the abbots and earls through all England to enquire into the actions of the sheriffs and provosts, the other mediety, together with the advowson, to the prior for ever.

At the dissolution Henry VIII. Dec. 22, in his 29th year, granted it to Thomas duke of Norfolk.—Hugh de Gurnay, of Letton, granted them a tencement, &c. without date.

Under the invasions of Hermerus de Ferrariis we find that he had seized on twenty-one acres of land, which two free-men held in the time of the Confessor, and were under protection only at that time, and one free-man possessed it under Hermerus, valued at 3s. 4d.

This came to the lords Bardolph, and in the 3d of Henry IV. Robert Read, and his parceners, held here, in Shipdham, Yaxham, &c. lands, some time William Atte-Rhode's, by the 5th part of a fee, of the honor of Wormegay; and Robert Fishpoole held it in the 5th of Henry VI.

William de Schoies had land, of which a free-man was deprived, valued at 23d.—*Thus far Mr. Parkin!—We shall now add a short account of this town from a manuscript of authority, and leave our readers to determine how much doctors differ.*

“ Letton, a small village situate between the two market towns of Dereham and Hingham, (written formerly Lacton, as supposed from the richness of its pastures) was famous for its milk and butter; and it is remarked, that queen Elizabeth, while on her progress into Norfolk, and while on her visit at Wood-Rising, was supplied with butter three several times from a farm in the town of Letton, so remarkable was it even then for the goodness of its butter.

“ The first we find mentioned as lord of the manor of Letton was John le Boteler; he was lord of
the

the manor about the beginning of the reign of Edward I. and the manor of Letton is to this day called Butler's, in Letton.

“ The next lord we find was Edmund de Squathing, or Swathing, who, in the 15th of Henry VI. we find (in point of time) conveyed it to Henry Sturmer; and in the 21st of Henry VIII. 1530, William Sharington, and Urfula, his wife, conveyed the manor of Cranworth to Henry Sturmer.

“ The church of Letton, which was dedicated to All Saints, was pulled down in 1535 by sir Richard Southwell, and the materials thereof carried to rebuild Rising-hall, which in 17 was entirely pulled down, leaving only the farm-house.

“ William Brampton, esq. of Letton, purchased of Miles Spencer, doctor of laws, his capital messuage in the parish of St. Peter de Mancroft, and St. Stephen, and after purchased of sir Edward Warner, and John Gosnold, esq. four acres of land, lying in the field, called Chapel-field Croft, and was the same William Brampton who being in his winter-house, with other gentlemen, was appointed to treat with Kett, the rebel, and was, together with them, clapped into prison and chains, till the rebellion was suppressed.”

The church is a rectory, dedicated to All Saints; the ancient value was sixteen marks, and the priory of Lewes had a portion of tithe valued at 20s. per ann. the present value is 7l. 13s. 8d.

Walter de Valeche, rector, set a fold on the land of his church in the 9th of Edward I. but it was not allowed.

In the 38th of Henry VIII. June 26, this church was consolidated to that of Cranworth; and in 1762 the Rev. Robert Partridge was presented to the united rectory by Thornhagh Gurdon, esq. who is lord and patron, and resides at his seat here;—a venerable building, surrounded by lofty trees, and neat gardens, all of which are so properly blended as to preserve the air, or appearance, of feudal dignity.

MATTISHALL, or MATESHALE. The principal lordship at the survey was in the hands of Ralph de Beaufoe, of which fourteen free-men, who held it in king Edward's time, were deprived; and a church, endowed with twenty acres, valued at 16d. halfpenny. In king Edward's time this lordship was valued at 6os. at the survey at 43s. was seven furlongs long, six broad, and paid 36d. halfpenny gelt.

Ralph had also another tenure here, to make up his lordship, of which five free-men were deprived, valued at 2os. at the survey at 32s. 4d. but the soc was in the abbot of Ely.

Hubert de Rie, castellan of Norwich, by the marriage of Agnes, only daughter and heiress of Ralph, succeeded him; and from this family it came by Aliva, a daughter and co-heiress to John Marshal, of the family of the heirs of Pembroke, in the reign of Henry II. and by Hawys, daughter and heiress of John Marshal, to sir Robert Morley, who was lord in 1323.

Robert lord Morley's only daughter and heiress, Alianore, brought it by marriage to William Lovell, a younger son of the lord Lovell, of Tichmarsh, who died seised of it in 1475.

Alice.

Alice, only sister and heiress of Henry Lovell, lord Morley, married sir William Parker, and he in her right enjoyed it in the 5th of Henry VII. his descendant, Edward Parker, lord Morley, about 1583. sold great part of his inheritance, and this lordship, to sir Thomas Lovell, of East Harling, and his son, sir Francis, possessed it in 1620, &c. Thomas Berney, esq. of Swardeston, was lord in 1658; John Berney in 1676; Thomas Berney, esq. in 1720; and Ash Windham, esq. in 1740.

The rent of assize of free and customary tenants of this manor, in the 36th of Henry VIII. was 18l. 13s.

In this town the church of Ely had in the time of the Confessor eight soc-men, who held land, &c. valued at 20s. at the survey at 13s. only. This also was joined soon after the survey to the aforesaid manor.

John de Mareschal held here and in North Tuddenham, in the reign of Edward I. one fee and an half of the bishop of Ely. In the 20th of Edward III. Robert lord Morley held one fee and an half of the church of Ely.

Hermerus de Ferrariis had seized on a carucate and thirty-nine acres of land, held by twenty free-men in king Edward's reign, which lordship came by descent from Hermerus to the lords Bardolph, barons of Wormegay.

In the 38th of Henry III. William lord Bardolph had a charter for free-warren, as part of that manor.

In the 3d of Edward III. Robert Attehawe held the fourth part of a fee in this town, Yaxham, &c. of

Thomas lord Bardolph, and John de Wace a fourth part here, in Thuxton, &c.

In the 43d of that king Gregory Sterre conveyed by fine to John de Mountney land, &c. in Mattishall, &c.

On the attainder of Thomas lord Bardolph, in the reign of Henry IV. the king granted it with the honor of Wormegay to his brother, Thomas Beaufort, earl of Dorset, and after duke of Exeter.

In the 22d of Edward IV. Roger Drury, esq. and Ann, his wife, daughter and heiress of Henry Sturmer, passed by fine to Alexander Cressener, esq. Henry L'Estrange, John Garneys, William Drury, esq. Henry Fenne, &c. a considerable estate here, in Bergh, Hockering, &c. from the heirs of Ann. At the same time also John Pgrave, and Margaret, his wife, another of the daughters and coheiresses of Sturmer, conveyed their right to Henry Fenne and his heirs.

In the 6th of Henry VIII. it was in the crown, together with the honor of Wormegay; and at this time was possessed by Henry Pgrave, who died lord of it, and of Bergh, in 1527, held of the said honor.

By indenture made Aug. 9, 1667, William Bond, of London, esq. granted and sold to Sarah Bispham, relict of Samuel Bispham, M.D. and her heirs, the manor of Mattishall-Mounteney's, which sir John Pgrave, of Northwood-Barningham, in Norfolk, bart. by indenture, dated in the 24th of Charles I. sold to Samuel Smith, of Norwich, esq. and Robert Willimot, of Grey's-Inn, esq. both deceased, and to the said William Bond for the term of 1000 years.

Owen

Owen Thornton, clerk, was lord about 1630, and gave it to his daughter.

William earl Warren had fourteen acres of land, of which a free-man was deprived, and it was valued in Thuxton.

In this parish lived an ancient family de Harleston; Margaret, daughter of Robert Harleston, of this town, the wife of Dr. Parker, archbishop of Canterbury, gave lands here in 1569 to the value of 50s. per ann. for the poor of this parish, and a sermon to be preached in this church, which is preached every year by a fellow of Corpus Christi college, in Cambridge, on the Tuesday in Rogation week. This annual sermon is much frequented, and the great resort to it occasions a sort of fair on that day, and is commonly called Mattishall-gant, or gang, a word anciently used for perambulating the bounds in Rogation week.

Thomas Harleston, gent. by his will in 1558, gave his tenement, called Sparrows, to be an almshouse at Mattishall, and his house, called Coppes, to the poor of the said town, with several ewes, and money to the poor of this town, &c.

Mat gives name to several towns, as a rivulet; thus, Materdale, in Cumberland; Matching, in Essex; and Matlock, in Derbyshire.—*Vide Parkin.*

The church of Mattishall is dedicated to All Saints, and was anciently in the patronage of the Marshalls, lords Marshall of Ireland, valued at twenty-eight marks, and the vicarage at 40s.

The rectory is appropriated to Caius college, in Cambridge, and the vicarage is valued at 7l. 8s. 3d. ob. It consists of a nave, north and south aisle, with a chancel, covered with lead, has a four-square tower at the west end of the nave, embattled, in which hang six bells, a clock, and a dial.

In the nave are grave-stones:—*Pleasance, wife of Robert Davy, gent. and late of Henry Crossgrove, gent. printer, of Norwich, who died Aug. 9, 1741, aged 36.*—*William Barker, gent. who died February 21, 1719, aged 74.*

On a brass plate,—*Orate p. a'ia Galfridj Davy, cuj; &c.*—with his portraiture, hands conjoined, and beads by his side.

In the chancel are plates in memory of several of the name of Crofshold.

On a grave-stone, with the arms of Neal,—*Sarah wife of Gibson Neal, gent. who died July 11, 1747, in her 57th year.*

Another, with the said arms,—*Gibson Neal, gent. died April 17, 1747, in his 57th year.*

A stone,—*In memory of Colby Chamberlain, esq. who died May 23, 1742, aged 55.*

Within the rails of the communion-table lye several grave-stones of marble,—*In memoriam charissimi fratris Gul. Sigiswick, nuper vicar. hujus eccles. quondamq; Caij coll. in acad. Cantabr. socij senioris, obeuntis Sept. 26, 1675, ætat. suæ 61, Robert. frater, hunc lapidem posuit;*—and the arms of Segiswick.

The arms of Repps and Gooch.—*John Repps, esq. of Reymerston, who died Nov. 23, 1696, ætat. suæ 61.*

Another, with the said arms in a lozenge,—*For Martha Repps, relict of John Repps, of Reymerston, esq. who died Nov. 29, 1705.*—Here are several other grave-stones with arms and inscriptions to this family.

Also, a grave-stone,—*For Nich. Howlet, B. D. preb. of Christ church, Norwich, rector of Reisham, vicar of Mattishall, who departed June 17, 1652, leaving one daughter, married to John Repps, of West Walton, esq.*

In the chapel, at the end of the south aisle, dedicated to St. Mary,—*Hic jacet in spe beatæ resurrectionis Gulielm. Brabant, A. M. ex agro Lacastriensi hujus ecclesiæ quondam vicarius (et honoratissimo D'no. Joh. Egerton, Comiti de Brigewater, - - - -) qui ob. 2º. Feb. 1688, ætat. suæ 38.*

In a window of the chapel, in the south aisle, are the arms of the *Quinque Vulnera*.

In the 17th of Richard II. a patent was granted to appropriate this rectory to the college of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, in Cambridge, now called Caius college. This rectory, and the patronage of the vicarage, was given by dame Mary Pakenham, relict of sir ——— Pakenham, knt. for the stipend of one fellow.

The vicar in 1603 returned 300 communicants to be then in this parish; and in 1743 the Rev. Henry Goodall, D. D. prebendary of Norwich, was presented to the vicarage of Mattishall, consolidated with

with Pottesley, in Launditch, by the master and fellows of Caius college, Cambridge.

Robert Foster Wulman, by his will in 1507, bequeathed to the making of a chapel of our Lady, in the east end of the south aisle in this church, forty marks, to be buried there, and to have a grave-stone to the price of 40s. Here were in this church five guilds, and five lights.

In the vicarage-house were the arms of the see of Norwich and of bishop Bateman; of Bohun, earl of Essex, and of the lord Morley.

Mattishall is a large and handsome village, situated on a road which leads from Honingham, and Norwich, to Yaxham, Shipdham, &c. In it are some neat houses, and the church is remarkably lofty.

MATTISHALL-BERGH, or BURGH, in old writing called Bergh *Parva*, to distinguish it from South Bergh, in this hundred; also Bergh near Mattishall, as lying near to it, and having the same lords.

It is not mentioned in the book of Doomſday, being accounted for in the lordship of Ralph de Beaufoe, in Mattishall, and that of Hermerus de Ferrariis, in the said town, as extending into this village.

The principal manor was that of Richard de Beaufoe, which came to the Marshalls; John le Marshall was lord and patron in the 11th of Edward I. and held it of the bishop of Ely, by knight's service. From the Marshalls it descended to the lords Morley; and in the 3d of Henry IV. Edmund Berry, and Richard Denny, of Wymondham, held here, and in East Tuddenham, &c. the fourth part of a fee of
Oliver

Oliver Grofs, and he of the lord Morley. From the lords Morley it came to the Lovells, and from them to the Parkers, lords Morley.

Edward Parker, lord Morley, who lived in the reign of queen Elizabeth, fold great part of his estate, and about 1583 this lordship, to sir Thomas Lovell, of East Harling, and his heirs inherited.

BARDOLPH'S MANOR. Hermer de Ferrariis' manor (who was lord of Mattishall at the survey) descended to the lords Bardolph, barons of Wormegay, and became part of that barony, and extended into this village.

On the attainder of lord Bardolph it was granted with that barony to Thomas Beaufort, earl of Dorset, and after duke of Exeter.

The church has only an aisle, with a chancel, covered with tile, a square tower, and three bells; there is a chapel on the north side, and is dedicated to St. Peter; it is a rectory; the ancient value was five marks, and the present value is 3l. 15s. 10d.

The canons of Southwark St. Mary had a portion of tithe valued at three marks, and the prior of Norwich 5s. per ann.

On a grave-stone in the church,—*Hic jacet corpus Audoeni Thornton, clerici, qui obt. 7 die Apr. 1688, ætat. 78.*

One,—*In memory of Robert Danyne, gent. who died in 1699, aged 52; and of Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of John Smith, gent. and died 1691.*

Another,

Another,—*For Robert Dannye, son of John Dannye, gent. who died 1670; and for Anne, his wife, daughter of Willam Steward, gent. who died 1694.*

On a monument of black marble,—*Resurrectionem beatam juxta manent reliquiae Eliz. Guliel. Dannye, filiae, Tho. Jegon, clerici, obt. 24 Dec. A^o. Dni. 1708, æt. 24.*

In the 16th of Edward I. the prior of Southwark St. Mary's granted this advowson to John le Marshall; till this time the prior was patron.

In 1603 the rector certified that there were eighty-one communicants, and that sir Francis Lovell was patron, to whom the advowson had been granted; but it appears that Henry lord Morley had released to Henry St. John the patronage for forty years.

Thomas Harleston, gent. of this town, lord of Aphow's, &c. in East Tuddenham, was buried in the church in 1558.

William Teder, by his will in 1504, gave the tenor bell.

In 1742 the Rev. George Howes was presented to this rectory, consolidated with Hockering, by Mr. Matthew Postlethwaite, *p. h. v.*

REYMERSTON is but once mentioned (*Raimestuna*) in the book of Doomsday, which is under the invasions of Hermerus de Ferrariis, who had seized on the possessions of five free-men, who had, in king Edward's reign, land, &c. valued at 10s. at the survey at 7s.

The lords Bardolph, descended from Hermerus, were lords; and in the 33th of Henry III. William lord Bardolph had a charter of free-warren in his demesne lands here.

In the 5th of Henry VI. Robert Fishpoole held the fourth part of a fee here, &c. of the honor of Wormegay, which, in the 3d of Edward III. was possessed by Robert Attehaw, and always went with that honor.

The king's manors of Cranworth, and Flockthorpe, extended into this town, and Osbert de Mundesford, in the 18th of Henry III. held of the earl Warren's manor of Letton, &c. the third part of a fee here, &c.

In 1277 it was found that the homage of the earl performed suit of court to the bishop's hundred court of Mitford.

In the 15th of Richard II. Richard lord Poynings held it of the earl of Arundel, and Reginald Cobham had an interest in it in the 9th of Hen. VI.

Sir Roger Wodehouse, in the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, conveyed to Thomas Crane the manor of Reymerston, and Francis Sturgeas, esq. was lord in the 33d of Elizabeth.

WENDLING-ABBAY MANOR. In the reign of Edward I. the abbot held the 8th part of a fee of the earl Warren. Their temporalities were valued at 16s. per ann.

CALVELEY MANOR. Calveley was, in the reign of the Confessor, at the time of making the survey (Cavelea) a town, or village, now (and some centuries

ries past) destroyed, and all the lands belonging to it are included and esteemed as parts of the township of Reymerston.

At the survey it was in the church of Ely, probably of the gift of Ethelwolf, bishop of Winchester in the reign of king Edgar, the Saxon king, and stands thus accounted for:—"Berner held of the abbot of Ely the manor that the church of Ely held in king Edward's time, valued at 20s. It was four furlongs long, and four broad, and paid 5d. gelt."

Godric claimed this land belonging to the fee of Ralph earl of Norfolk, as holding it before he forfeited, and the hundred witnessed it.

William Longchamp, bishop of Ely, who was chancellor to Edward I. and the pope's legate, granted to Robert Russell, his servant, and his heirs, all the land of Calveley, as an escheat.

In the 32d of Henry III. William de Calveleg, in right of Sarah, his wife, possessed the fee which Richard Russel, her late husband, held.

On August 29, 1259, William de Swathing, and William de Calveley, bound themselves, on account of certain disputes, to stand to arbitration, and he that refused to submit to it, was to pay the forfeiture to the building of the church of Westminster, then building.

In the 16th of Edward I. John, son of William de Calveley, granted to the prioress of St. Rade-gund's, in Cambridge, to present then to the church of Reymerston, with a *salvo jure suo*; and in the said year William de Mareschall claimed free-warren,
and

and a grant of a fair in his manor here every year, for five days. This must be on account of his lordship of Hingham, which he obtained of the king in the preceding year.

Besides this family, lands here were in the hands of Burdeleys, Coroner, Le-Despencer, and Rothwell.

Edmund Swathing, esq. in the 3d of Henry IV. held the lordship of Calveley by one fee, of the bishop of Ely; and in the 9th of Henry VI. William Paston, esq. of Paston, released to Robert Wetheringset, archdeacon of Ely, and Oliver Groos, esq. all his right herein.

Francis Sturges, esq. was lord in the 33d of Elizabeth. In the 4th of James I. sir George Coppin, knt. possessed it, and sold it soon after to Thomas Bateman, esq. Anthony, his son, died seised of the scite of Calveley manor, January 4, in the 22d of James I. and left it to his daughter and coheiress, Philadelphia.

After this it came by — Tayler to Robert Rugg, gent. His son, Thomas Rugg, conveyed to Robert Clayton, esq. (afterwards sir Robert) a moiety of the manor of Reymerston, alias Calveley-hall, or Yards, with the appurtenances, one garden, one orchard, sixty acres of land, ten of meadow, thirty of pasture, forty of wood, and ten of heath, in 1660.

Parkin says, a Mr. Salter, of London, is the present lord.

The church of Reymerston is a rectory, dedicated to St. Peter. The ancient value was 18 marks; the present, 11l. 12s. 6d.

John de Reymerston conveyed by fine, in the 2d of Henry III. to Leuice, prioress of St. Radegund's, in Cambridge, the advowson of this church.

In the 6th of Henry IV. a *quare impedit* was brought by Robert Fulborne, of Letton, against Edmund Swathing, &c. for the right of presentation to this church; and before this, in 1422, Robert Folsam, rector, resigned, and a *quare impedit* was then brought by Edmund Swathing, esq. against John Manning, &c. who presented Folsam, and said that the right belonged to an acre of land in their possession.

In 1603 the rector returned 120 communicants to be here, and that Francis Sturges, esq. deceased, was the late patron.

In 1761 the Rev. John Longe was presented to the rectory of Reymerston, or Remerston, by Francis Longe, esq. of Spixworth, in Taverham hundred, who has a considerable lordship here.

The church has a nave, a north and south aisle, with a chancel, and five bells.

On a grave-stone, with a brass, in the south aisle,—
Orate p. a' d' a. Robti. Tychepole, qui obt. Jan. 10, 1509.

In the chancel, a curious mural marble monument, thus inscribed:—*M. S. Induviae Robi. Longe, armigeri, hic juxta reposita, quater maritus, ter quater pater, utroq; nomine felicissimus, qui pro votis uxorem accepit, ac filios debitum innatae largitati patrimonium nascens accepit. Dei benedictione suisq; studiis honeste et modice ditescens, sibi benefecit et caute vixit. Plura tantum appetens, quo plura daret, id unum habere reputans, quod effudasset, Vir negotijs solers, vitae integer,*
pietate

pietate sanctus, cujus vitam si speculeris, ac mortem, dubites, an potuit vivere sanctius, an obire securius. Laboris et senij - - - - - dilerantis mundi pertæsus, somno profundo placide consignatus est morti, et in spem letam resurrectionis paulo minor septuagenio occubuit, A. æræ Christianæ 1688.——Sumptibus Franc. Longe, filii natu minoris.

In a north window are the arms of lord Bardolph, and in the east window of the north aisle those of Swathing;—in a south window the arms of Argenton.

Thomas Grigson, esq. has a seat and considerable property in this town.

SHIPDHAM, or SHIPDAM, and THORPE. In the book of Doomsday we find no account of Shipdham being a lordship, or possessed by the church of Ely, but that Thorpe, a town of considerable value at that time, though now included in Shipdham, was one of the lordships of that monastery in the Saxon age, given to it, with that of East-Dereham, by Ethelwold bishop of Winchester, in the reign of king Edgar, and extended into Shipdham.

King Edward the Confessor, in his charter of confirmation of the lordships, &c. belonging to the abbey of Ely, mentions this town of Thorpe; and when Leoffin, the 5th abbot, assigned certain towns and lordships, in the time of king Canute, for the annual support of it, East Dereham and Thorpe are named together, and were to find provisions for two weeks.

At the survey, St. Etheldreda, that is the church of Ely, had possessions, then valued at 60s. at which

time the whole was valued at 11l. was one leuca long, and one broad, and paid 15d. gelt.

In Thorpe, &c. in this hundred, five soc-men of St. Etheldreda had fifty acres, and a carucate, valued at 8s.

On the foundation of the see of Ely, this lordship was assigned to the bishop, and made part of his barony; and in the 29th of Henry III. the bishop had a market and fair granted to him.

In 1277 it was found that he enjoyed the privileges as mentioned in East Dereham, and ——— de Cateston did suit to his hundred court, for tenements and lands here. He was patron of the church of Shipdham.

The demesne lands were 236 acres and a half, by the less hundred, the perch being at sixteen feet and an half, and to be plowed by two plows of four oxen, and two Scots each, with two horses for harrow; every acre valued at 12d. per acre per ann. The commons of Westmore, Lingmore, Northwood, and Wicksmeech, are bounded, and they who inter-common are mentioned.

Old Park, called Little-Haw, and the New Park, West-Haw, the woods of Southaw, Carlhaw, and Blackmere-Haw, contained seventy acres, in which the towns of Letton, and Reymerston, had liberty of common for their beasts, with the bishop's, horn under horn, but the bishop alone had power to dig, as lord of the soil.

He

He had also two wind-mills belonging to this manor, and the suit belonging to them, with free-warren in the whole manor.

In the 34th of Henry VI. this lordship was worth 44l. 3s. 6d. per ann. and in the 3d and 4th of Philip and Mary 45l. 18s. 3d. as by the accounts of the bishop's register general.

Soon after this it came to the crown, and was granted by act of parliament, in the first year of Elizabeth, and confirmed, most probably, by the 19th chapter in the acts of the said year, which was before the deprivation of bishop Thurleby.

No printed author (that we have seen) mentions this:—And on August 9, in her 3d year, sir William Wodehouse, knt. of Hickling, in Happing hundred, had a grant of this manor, (late the bishop of Ely's) with the park, and advowson of the church, paying a fee-farm rent of 21l. 6s. 5d. per annum, with a close, called the Lord's Close; and on the 9th of May, anno 26, sir Thomas Wodehouse had a new grant of it, with the deer in the park, all the woods and underwoods, and about 1585 conveyed it to sir Thomas Gaudy, of Claxton, a judge of the common pleas, who died seised of it November 1, in the 30th year of that reign.

Robert Gaudy, his son, passed it to William Castleton, esq. created a baronet August 9, 1641, and sir John, his son, presented in 1673: Edmund Castleton sold it to Charles lord viscount Townshend about 1704, and in that family it continues.

William earl Warren had a considerable lordship in Shipdham, of which eleven free-men were deprived

prived on the conquest, then valued at 30s. at the survey at 40s. and the moiety of a church endowed with eight acres. It was one leuca long, and five furlongs broad, and paid 15d. gelt. And, under the title of Invasions, we find that his men (those who held lands under him) had invaded or seized on lands in Shipdham, which Brodo, and Alwin, held under king Edward, valued at 8s. 1d. ob. This was always part of the king's manor of Saham, and no livery was made of it, as the hundred witnessed.

The ancient family of Caſton was early enſcotted of this, and held it of the earl Warren.

William de Cateſtune (or Caſton) poſſeſſed it in 1200; and in the 5th of Edw. III. ſir John de Caſton.

After this, by Elizabeth, a daughter and co-heireſs of ſir John Caſton, it came to ſir Robert Carbonel, ſon of ſir William Carbonel, of Bodingham, in Suffolk, and ſir John died lord in 1425, leaving Thomas, his ſon, a minor, who dying in his minority, it deſcended to the Berneys.

Margaret, daughter of ſir Robert Caſton, married William de Reedham, of Reedham, in Norfolk, and Margaret, daughter and heireſs of this William, having married Thomas Berney, eſq. ſecond ſon of John Berney, eſq. of Witchingham, was lord of Reedham, &c. in her right, in the reign of Richard II.

John Berney, eſq. ſon and heir of Thomas aforeſaid, died lord of this manor in 1400, and gave it to his ſecond ſon, Philip, with the manor of Caſton, who dying without iſſue in 1453, bequeathed them to his younger brother, John, but ſoon after they came to the family of the Reedhams.

In

In the 19th of Henry VIII. Oct. 27, John Berney, esq. died seised of it, held of the manor of Saham-Tony, by fealty, and 3s. rent per ann.

Richard Berney, esq. died lord in 1695; he mortgaged it, and in 1709 it was sold by a decree in chancery, to pay his debts.

Thomas de Snetterton had an interest here in the 7th of Edward II.

Humphrey de Skypdham, or Shipdham, and his tenants, in the 20th of Edward III. held the 10th part of a fee of the earl Warren.

In the 4th of Henry IV. sir Robert Knolls held the same of the earl of Arundel.

Hermerus de Ferrariis' lordship of Whinbergh, and Garveston, extended into this town; he had also one soc-man here, with sixteen acres of land, valued at 4s. held by Adelm.

Hermerus' interest came to the lords Bardolph, of Wormegay, and went with that barony.

William Atte-Rode, of Shipdham, held in the 3d of Edward III. the fourth part of a fee in this town, &c. of the honor of Wormegay. Robert Atte-How possessed it in the 20th of that king; and in the said reign John de Thetford, &c. held lands, called Rode-Fee, with a wind-mill, rents, and services, of the lord Bardolph; and Robert Reed possessed it in the 3d of Henry IV.

The Conqueror at the survey had here, and in Cranworth, thirty acres, held by a soc-man, in Stowe, valued at 2s.

This was soon after granted by the earl Warren, and so was joined to the lordship abovementioned, of Caston, &c.

A market weekly on Thursday, and a fair for three days, beginning on Sts. Peter and Paul's day, was granted in 29 of Henry III. to Hugh de Northwold, bishop of Ely, who built a great hall in his palace here.

In 1639, on an inquisition for charitable uses, it was found that the moiety of a manor, called Bennet's, with messuages, lands, &c. on the south-west part of the church, belonged to the township, worth 18l. per ann. and that out of it bread and wine had been found for the communion, and the church repaired.

William Hattersley, rector, by will, in 1608, gave 20l. to be put out at interest for the poor; and Alice, his widow, by will, in 1614, gave 20l. to the same use; and John Bullock 10l. in 1617.

John Tudenham, clerk, gave by will, in 1613, a tenement, called Sparks, and half a rood of land, for the dwelling of four poor people.

William Mowting, of East Dereham, by will, in 1561, for the relief of the blind and lame, &c. gave 14l. per ann. in lands; all which gifts had been sadly abused, &c. and then rectified.

The town, says Mr. Parkin, seems to take its name from some stream, &c. of water, called Scip,
or

or Shep. In Kent we find a lathe, or hundred, and an island, called Shepey; thus, Shepeshead, in Leicestershire; Shipley, in Derbyshire, &c. but we apprehend the origin of its name might be Sheep-dam, a place where sheep in the proper season were usually washed; or Sheep-ham, a town near which are very extensive commons for sheep, &c. Why it is called (unless by corruption) Shipdham, we cannot guess, unless that some feature of the country might formerly be thought to resemble a ship. We find this town once wrote Sepedeham.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and was in the patronage of the bishop of Ely. It appears that the rector in the reign of Edward I. had a manse, with sixty acres of glebe, and that there had been formerly a vicar belonging to it, but at that time there was only a rector; the value was forty marks; Peterpence 2s. 10d. The monks of Castle-Acre had a portion of tithe, valued at 5s. per ann. given them by John de Cateston, viz. two parts of the tithes of his lordship in this town, and Rockland, which the bishop of Norwich confirmed to them in 1265. The present value is 26l. 7s. 5d. ob. and pays first fruits and tenths.

The church is a good pile, with a very broad nave and chancel, and a north aisle that runs the whole length of the nave and chancel, all covered with lead; at the west end of the nave is a strong four-square tower, embattled, with five bells, a dial, and clock. On the tower is a handsome lanthorn, or turret, covered with lead, which is seen at some distance. Between the nave and chancel hangs the saints bell.

In the chancel lie several grave-stones for the Bullocks, on them this shield: Bullock impaling Fluellin;

In

In memory of Mary, wife of Thomas Bullock, gent. eldest daughter of William Fluellin, esq. alderman of London, who died October 29, 1683, and left one daughter, Diana, and three sons, Thomas, William, and Robert, now living, who enjoying a plentiful estate, by the death of sir Thomas Colby, of Kensington, bart. son of Elizabeth, second daughter of alderman Fluellin, have placed this inscription in gratitude to God and her memory, May 12, 1730.

On a brass plate,—*Pray for the soul of Mr. Thomas Alkoke, some time parson of this church, who died Sept. 19, A. D. 1523, on whose soul, &c.*

In the north aisle a grave-stone, with the arms of Bullock,—*In memory of Robert Bullock, late of Hingham, in Norfolk, gent. who died Aug. 20, 1729, in the 60th year of his age.*

In 1603 the rector returned, in answer to the king's queries, that there were 480 communicants.

We find the chapel of St. Mary, and that of St. Thomas, mentioned in this church in 1503; probably this was the chapel in the north aisle in which there were in the east window formerly these arms:—Lord Tony, impaling with argent, on a fess, gules, three bezants, between three torteaux; Grey, bishop of Ely; Morton, bishop of Ely, &c.

In 1487 John Alcock, bishop of Ely, granted forty days indulgence to all who would contribute to the repair of the chapel of St. Thomas of Canterbury, situate in a certain hermitage within this parish, and of the ways that lay about it.

In

In 1512 there was a suit between the rector of Saham-Tony and the rector of Shipdham, on account of tithe milk, and the agistment of cattle feeding on the common of Shipdham.

We find a certain common pasture, called Westmore, belonging to the lordship of Shipdham, beginning at the church, and leading and continuing to the meres, or bounds, between the liberties of the fee of Ely, and the hundred of Wayland, which belonged to the heirs of Ralph de Tony; and this, we suppose, was the common in dispute.

In 1754 the Rev. Colby Bullock was presented to this rectory by the right honourable lord viscount Townshend.

The temporalities of Castle-Acre priory were 18s. 4d. per ann. in 1428; of St. Bennet at Holme abbey 17s. 3d. of Wendling 2s. 6d. of Colchester 8s. of Lewes priory 6s. and of Beeston-Regis 11d.

Shipdham is a considerable village, on the road between East Dereham and Watton, in which are some genteel houses, as country seats.

SOUTH-BERGH, BURGH, or BARROW, wrote in Doomfday-book Berch. William earl Warren had a grant of the lands of seven free-men, and there was then a church endowed with twelve acres; the whole was valued at 20s. per ann. It was six furlongs long, five broad, and paid 15d. gelt.

In the 9th of king John Thomas de Benefeld was lord of this manor, held of the earl Warren, and conveyed to Walter de Bergh the advowson of the church of St. Andrew of South-Bergh. It was sometimes
called

called Bergh *Ma-na*, and also Bergh *by Hingham*, to distinguish it from Bergh by Mattishall, both of them lying in Mitford hundred.

In the 53d of Henry III. Henry de Bergh, or Berk, gave lands here to Jeffrey de Hingham; and in the 13th of Edward I. Richard de South-Bergh granted to his daughter, Ella, or Alice, wife of John de Calveley, a messuage, with lands here, and in Wood-Rising, he presenting to the church in 1329, in her right.

In the 26th of Edward III. Richard de Wyrham conveyed to William, son of John de Calveley, this lordship and advowson.

This William died soon after, without issue; for in the 25th of that king, Amicia, or Alianore, married to John Caroner, was found to be sister and coheiress of John de Calveley, father of William.

John Atte-Thorn presented to the church in the said year, probably in right of his wife, another of the sisters and coheiresses.

John Botyld presented in 1375, and in 1389, whose right came probably by Caroner.

Thomas Crofts, of Westall, senior, esq. presented in 1439, and Thomas Crofts, of Norfolk, in 1463; Thomas Grey, esq. as lord, in 1550, who was lord also in 1556; but before this, in the 17th of Henry VII. Thomas Caus passed by fine this lordship of Botyld's, with lands in this town, Hardingham, and Hingham, and the advowson, to Francis Calybut, &c.

In 1561 John Aldham, gent. was lord in right of his wife, ———. On September 17, in the 11th of Elizabeth, he sold to Thomas Thwayte, of Hardingham, esq. a moiety of the manor of Botyld, and a moiety of the advowson, and after, the other moiety of both, which manor was possessed by Francis Cushion, of Hingham, who left four daughters and coheiresses.

Thomas Thwayte conveyed it in the 23d of Elizabeth, July 15, to Francis Sturges, esq. who presented in 1587; he died seised.

Thornhagh Gurdon, esq. was lord and patron in 1714, in which family it remains, Thornhagh Gurdon, esq. of Letton, being now (1780) lord and patron. The manor of Calveley, in Reymerton, extended into this. In the 8th of king John William Coke had an interest herein, and conveyed lands held by knight's service. In 1277 William de Calveley held it.

In Bergh, Hermerus de Ferrariis had seized on two acres of land, belonging to a free-man, valued at 6d. This was part of Wace's manor in Thuxton, Mattishall, &c.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Andrew; the ancient value was twelve marks. Richard de Bergh was patron about the 9th of Edward I. The present value is 5l. 13s. 6d. ob.

In 1603 the rector returned ninety-six communicants, and that Thomas Forth, yeoman, was then patron.

The temporalities of Westacre priory, in meadows, were 3s. and in 1762 the Rev. Robert Partridge was presented to this rectory by Thornhagh Gurdon, esq.

THUXTON, or **THURSTON**, William earl Warren had the lordship of which ten free-men were deprived, valued at the survey at 20s. before at 10s. The said earl possessed also nine acres, of which a free-man was deprived, valued at 2s. per ann. The king had a lordship, which Godric took care of, as his steward, or bailiff; four soc-men in Tuftuna, and four in Turstanestuna, held lands belonging to the manor of Swathing, under which they stand valued and accounted.

It is to be observed, that Tuftuna, and Turstaneston, appear by this account in Doomsday-book to be two distinct places. Turstaneston was probably a hamlet to Thurston. These manors of the earl and of the king were afterwards united, and so we shall treat of them together.

The family of de Thurston, or Thuxton, were early enfeoffed of the earl Warren's manor. Of this family was Eborard de Thuxton, who was living here in the reign of Richard I.

The Gurneys were early enfeoffed of the manor that Godric held, and the Thurstons held it of them.

John and Richard de Thurston were lords in the 9th of king John, and the patronage belonged to it.

In 1381 Edmund Gurney presented to this church. In 1387 William de Thurston was lord; and in the year 1472 John Ovy, of Worstead, was lord of the
manor

manor of Thuxton; and Thomas, his son, who died in 1473, ordered it to be sold to pay his debts. In 1500 William Gurney presented to the church.

In 1503 sir Thomas Wodehouse, of Kimberley, was lord, and Wace's manor paid to him 6d. per annum.

Robert Newport, esq. conveyed in the 37th of Henry VIII. to sir John Clere, the third part of this manor; and Thomas Asley conveyed in the 3d of Edward VI. a third part to Robert Richer.

In the 44th of Elizabeth, William Thursbye, gent. had a *præcipe* to render the manor of Thuxton to Froximer Cocket, gent.

Hermerus de Ferrariis had invaded, or seized on the property of seven free-men, valued then at 20s. but now (1086) at 26s. 8d.

This came to the lords Bardolph, and was part of their barony of Wormegay; and in the 20th of Edward III. John Wace, of Thurston, held here, and in Mattishall, a quarter of a fee of lord Bardolph.

In the 8th of Henry VI. Henry Sharnington, esq. purchased it of Henry Periz, clerk, for 42l. 6s. 8d. Thomas Sharnington, esq. of Cranworth, was lord in the 19th of Henry VII. and paid wayt-fee to the castle of Wormegay, every twenty-four weeks, 1s. 6d.

Robert Ball, gent. had a *præcipe* in the 18th of Elizabeth to render to Robert Duke the manor of Wace's, with messuages and lands in Thuxton, &c. John Fuller, gent. was lord of Wace's in 1640.

Roger Bigot had a lordship at the survey, which Rotbert was infeoffed of by him, possessed by a freeman in the reign of king Edward, valued at 4s. and here was a church endowed with sixteen acres, valued at 16d. This appears to be held by the family of de Thurston in the 11th of Richard II. of dame Catherine Bigot, and extended into Hardingham, Reymerston, &c.

The church of Ely had also at the survey, in this town, Thorpe, and Yaxham, five soc-men, who held lands, valued at 8s. but this seems to be part of the manor of Thorpe, or Shipdham, and to go along with the bishop of Ely's lordship there.—The temporalities of Westacre priory were 15s.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Paul, anciently valued at ten marks; the present value is 4l. 6s. 2d. and is discharged of first fruits and tenths.

In 1603 the rector returned forty communicants; and Francis Long, esq. was patron in 1740.

In 1752 the Rev. Charles Buckle was presented to the rectory of Thuxton, *alias* Threxton, by Charles Buckle, esq. deputy-recorder of Norwich.

In the church was a grave-stone,—*In memory of John Futter, gentleman, late of this town, who died Janu. 1572.*

A grave-stone for—*Catherine, third wife of Gregory Pagrave, daughter of ——— Pigeon, who died July 15, 1596.*

For—*Mary Sefoule, second wife of Greg. who died July, 1587.*

In

In a north window of the church are the arms of Whinburgh, impaling sable, two bendlets, ermine.

In the 19th of Henry VII. Thomas Sharnington, of Cranworth, esq. lord of Wace's manor, and having a good estate here, agreed with ——— Heyward, of Norwich, to glaze a window in this church, at 7s. 3d. farthing per foot, which was to be painted with the history of the Transfiguration of our Lord, his own picture, and his wife's, kneeling, in their coats of arms; and above, in the said window, six escutcheons of the arms of their parents, to be given him by Thomas, who paid Hayward 6s. 8d. in hand.

Thuxton lies on the road from Mattishall to Hingham, and adjoins to Garveston.

EAST TUDDENHAM. Hermerus de Ferrariis was chief lord of this town when Doomsday-book was made, on the deprivation of Turchetel, who held it in the reign of the Confessor, with a church endowed with twenty acres, valued then in the whole at 16s. at the survey at 20s. It was seven furlongs long, and six broad, whoever should possess it, and paid 22d. halfpenny gelt.

All the churches belonging to Hermerus's land are valued with the lordships.

Hermerus had also seized on lands, &c. belonging to six free-men, who lived under protection only in king Edward's time, valued at 26s. 8d. then, but at the survey at 24s.

COCKFIELD'S MANOR. Turchetel had large possessions, and was succeeded therein on his deprivation by Hermerus, by gift of the Conqueror; from him de-

descended the lords Bardolph, barons of Wormegay; and the ancient family of de Melton, *alias* Constable, lords of Melton-Constable, in Holt hundred, were early enfeoffed of it. Peter le Constable de Melton was lord in the reign of Henry II. and in this family it remained till on the death of Jeffrey, son of Peter de Melton, the inheritance came to his three sisters and coheireffes; Isabel, married to Adam de Cokefield; Alice, to Robert de Cokefield; and Edith, to sir Thomas de Esteley, or Asley.

In the 35th of Henry III. Robert Adam de Cockfield impleaded Alice le Marefchall, lady of North Tuddenham, for fishing in their fishery of East-Tuddenham, from the old mill of Hockering, to the mill called Gladwar; but it appearing that the fishery was the right of Alice's father, Hubert de Rie, and all her ancestors, and that her husband held it, judgment was given for her.

Sir John de Cockfield, lord here, was living in the 26th of Edward III. and paid 40s. on the creation of Edward prince of Wales, then a knight.

It was held of lord Bardolph by this family, till sir John de Cockfield, who died about the 30th of Henry VI. without issue, was succeeded by Agnes, his sister and heiress, the wife of John Talboys, of Stallingburgh, in Lincolnshire, esq. by whom he had his son and heir, John, whose only daughter, Margaret, married John Ascough, esq. son of sir William Ascough, bart. of Lincolnshire.

This John was lord in the 8th of Edward IV. and sold it to William Paston, esq.

Sir

Sir William Paston (fourth son of sir William, the judg). was lord in the said reign, and by Lady Ann, his wife, daughter and co-heiress of Edmund duke of Exeter, left two daughters and co-heiresses, Agnes, married to sir Gilbert Talbot, of Grafton, in Worcester-shire, and Elizabeth, to sir John Savile, who held the same; and sir John Savile held a moiety in the 19th of Henry VII.

In the 37th of Henry VIII. May 20, Robert Newport, gent. of ———, in Warwickshire, and Margaret, his wife, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of sir Gilbert Talbot, conveyed their right and interest herein to sir John Clere, of Ormesby, with the manor of Melton, as sir John Savile's interest; and Mary, another of the daughters and co-heiresses of sir Gilbert, married Thomas Asley, esq. who conveyed his part to Thomas Wodehouse, esq. of Waxham, August 1, in the 2d of Edward VI. which soon after came also to the Cleres; and Edward Clere, son of sir John, sold the whole on June 10, in the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, to Thomas Harleston, yeoman, of Mattishall-Bergh. He died in 1558, and gave to two of his daughters and co-heiresses, Mary, wife of Thomas Peade, and Susan, wife of William Turner, the manors of Cockfield, &c. but they, by deed, dated in 1573, and the rest of their sisters and co-heiresses, conveyed it to Robert Tilney, of East Tuddenham, gent. who dying in 1589, his son, Robert, succeeded, and died without issue in 1602.

Frederick Tilney, esq. lord of this town, and of Rotherwick, in Hampshire, dying October 4, 1725, left, by Anne, daughter of George Pitt, esq. of Stratfield-Say, in Hampshire, an only daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, married to the right honorable Wil-

liam lord Craven.—Frederick was member of parliament for Winchester, &c.

The Tilneys are descended from the eminent family of that name, in Lincolnshire.

ASTLEY'S, or HOLYWELL'S MANOR. Sir Thomas de Estele, or Astley, gave name to this lordship, in right of Edith, his second wife, third sister and co-heiress of Jeffrey de Melton, *alias* Constable: by Edith he had Thomas, his first son, Stephen, the second, &c. Thomas died before his mother, who re-married to Robert de Holywell, and from him this manor is frequently called Holywell.

Stephen de Astley had a grant of free-warren in this town in the 14th of Edward I. and he, with sir John de Cockfield, held one fee of the lord Bardolph. In this family it remained till Thomas Astley, esq. sold it, in 1548, to Thomas Wodehouse, esq. of Waxham, and soon after it came to the Cleres.

Edward Clere, son of sir John Clere, sold it in the reign of Philip and Mary to Thomas Harleston, with Cockfield's manor, and so it came to the Tilneys, and was united to that lordship.

Ralph de Beaufoe, at the survey, had a lordship, of which six free-men were deprived, who held lands, valued at 14s. and 8d.

BERRY, or BARRY'S MANOR. Sir Henry Berry was lord of it in the reign of Edward I. by his marriage with Ann, daughter of sir Hugh Tuddenham.

Sir

Sir John Berry, lord of this manor, was living in the reign of Henry IV. and his son and heir was sir Edmund Berry, who left a daughter and co-heiress, Agnes, married to sir William Paston, of Paston, one of the king's justices in the reign of Henry VI. and Alice, his other daughter and co-heiress, married to sir Thomas Bardolph, of Ellough, in Suffolk.

On a division of sir Edmund Berry's inheritance, about 1454, this came to Bardolph, in right of Alice, his wife, by whom he had a daughter and sole heiress, Elizabeth, married to Thomas Aslake, esq. who was living in the 16th of Edward IV.

Thomas, his eldest son, dying without issue, William, his second son, inherited it, who left Dorothy, a daughter and heiress, married to Christopher Playters, esq. of Somerley, in Suffolk.

This lordship was sold, in the 1st of Elizabeth, by William Playters, of Holme, in Smithdon hundred, to Thomas Hoo, of Burnham, in Brothercrofts hundred, who resided in this town after this.

In the 13th of that reign he died seised of the manor of Berry, in this town, a water-mill, and lands here; and in the said year the queen, as guardian of Richard Hoo, then a minor, kept her court here.

On April 8, in the 34th of Elizabeth, Richard Hoo, of Scarning, esq. Thomas Feveryere, of Weasenham, gent. and Robert Curson, of Gressenhall, gent. sold it to Robert Tilney, gent. and so it was united to the other manors above-mentioned.

APHAW'S MANOR. In the 41st of Henry III. Roger de Alderford granted a messuage, and lands, to
F 3 William

William de Apehawe, of which sir John de Cockfield was capital lord.

Henry Apehawe, of East Tuddenham, conveyed it in the 19th of Henry VI. to William Paston, esq. of Paston, and his son, William, possessed it in the 10th of Edward IV.

After this, from Savile, &c. it came to Thomas Harleston, gent. who by his last will, in 1558, devised the scite, &c. of it to Margaret, one of his daughters and co-heiresses; she married William Forby, gent. whose son, Hillary Forby, of Milchem, conveyed it in the 36th of Elizabeth to Roger Wotton, gent. and Thomas Cocket, gent.

Thomas granted his moiety of it to Henry Wayte, of King's-Lynn, in the 42d of that queen; and Henry, in the said year, granted it to Roger Wotton. His son Roger, in the 14th of Charles I. was a merchant of London; and on October 20, in the 23d of Charles I. sold it by fine to Francis Tilney, esq. and so was united to Cockfield's manor, &c.

Alan earl of Richmond had, at the survey, a lordship in this town; it belonged to his great manor of Cossey, in the hundred of Forehoe, and consisted of ten socmen of the said lordship, held by earl Guert, king Harold's brother, and slain at the battle of Hastings: it was valued with Cossey.

The family of de Tuddenham had an interest herein. John de Todeham held two fees here, &c. of Matthew de Leyham, he of the lady of the honor of Ongar, in Essex, as by a deed without date. The lady here mentioned was most likely of the family

mily of de Briton, from which family it came by marriage to the family of de Ripariis, or Rivers.

Starcolf had, at the survey, forty acres of land, &c. valued at 10s. per ann. This Starcolf was a Dane, and had the lordship of Barnham-Broom, in Forehoe hundred, in the reign of the Confessor, and of this; and for his services to the Conqueror, against king Harold, held them at the survey.

In the 17th of Edward II. William Gambon, had lands, &c. in North Tuddenham, &c. John Gambon died seised of it in 1432, from whom it came to the Sternes.

James I. June 29, in the 16th year of his reign, granted to Richard Tilney, esq. the leets of this town, and North Tuddenham, Mattishall-cum-Bergh, and the East part of Shipdham.

Tod, or Tud, says Mr. Parkin, is the name of a river; hence Todwick, in Yorkshire; Tudworth, in Wiltshire; Tuddisford, in Hampshire, &c.

The temporalities of Coxford priory were 4s. 4d.—of Norwich 9s. 2d.—of Pentney 18s.—of Wormegay 7s. 8d.

The priory of St. Olave's of Herringfleet, in Suffolk, was taxed at 20s. 6d. per ann. In 1428 sir Giles Talbot held them; and in the 1st of Edward VI. Henry Jernegan, esq. granted to sir John Clere all those messuages in East and North Tuddenham, late belonging to St. Olave's priory, at 10s. 8d. per ann. and after this Thomas Harleston held them.

The church of East Tuddenham is dedicated to All Saints, has a large broad nave and chancel, the

nave covered with lead, the chancel tiled, and a square tower embattled, and four bells at the south-west end of the nave.

In the reign of Edward I. the prior of Wormegay was patron, granted by fine in the 15th of king John; the rector had a manse, with forty acres of land, which was valued at twenty-one marks; the prior had also a portion of tithe, valued at fifteen marks.—The present value of the vicarage is 7l. 6s. ob. On the appropriation and settling the vicarage, the rectory was valued at fifteen marks, and the vicarage at six marks, in the reign of Edward III. and in 1468, that priory was united to the priory of Pentney.

In the south window of the chancel were the arms of lord Tatehale; also, of lord Bardolph. And in a north window of the church, Calthorpe, and Cockfield.

On the south side of the church, under the pulpit, is the effigy of a knight in armour, with a heart between his hands, and a lion at his feet, said to be for sir Edmund de Berry.

In the church, a grave-stone—*In memory of Abraham Baist, minister of this parish full sixty years, departed August 8, 1677, aged 86.*

On an old stone, the effigies of a man and his two wives, in brass, but no inscription.—In 1603 here were 148 communicants.

At the dissolution the appropriated rectory was granted July 1, in the 7th of Edward VI. to William Mingay; and William Necton, of Norwich, soon after conveyed it (August 20, in the 1st and 2d of

of Philip and Mary) to sir John Clere. His son, Edward, sold it, in the 5th and 6th of Philip and Mary, to Robert Tilney, of this town, and Richard Neve, of Ringland, who had each a moiety.

Richard Neve, rector of North Tuddenham, sold it. in 1639, to Francis Tilney, esq. who held the other part, or moiety, and so possessed the whole rectory.

In the 27th of Elizabeth we find the vicar had a pension of 40s. per ann. paid him by the impropriator.

In 1753 the Rev. Thomas Roger Du Quesne, chancellor of St. David's, was presented to this vicarage by the right honorable Charles Townshend, and, August 22, 1754, it was consolidated with Honingham.

The village of East Tuddenham lies on the road between Norwich and Matishall, and south of the brook which runs eastward, but the parsonage-house is situated on the north side, and is a fine villa.

NORTH TUDDENHAM, or WEST TUDDENHAM. Ralph de Beaufoe had a lordship here when Doomsday-book was made, of which Sigar, a freeman, lord also of Hockering, was deprived. This, with Hockering, was half a leuca long, and half a one wide, and paid 5d. halfpenny gelt, and Totdenham (as it is here wrote) was five furlongs long, and four broad, and paid 21d. halfpenny gelt, and there were two churches, endowed with twenty acres. The two churches here mentioned are the two moieties of this church, or rather Beaufoe's right in this church, and in that of Hockering.

From

From Beaufoe it came to Hubert de Rie, from him to the Marshals, then to the Morleys. John de Shropham, who held it under lord Morley, in the 18th of Edward III. granted by fine to Richard de Bittering, one of the bailiffs of Norwich, the manor of Tuddenham-Falagate, (as it was some time called) with the homages, services, &c.

From the lords Morley it came to the Lovells, so to the Parkers, lords Morley.

Edward Parker, lord Morley, sold it in the reign of queen Elizabeth to sir Thomas Lovell, of East Harling; and sir Charles Lovell was lord in the reign of Charles I.

Thomas Berney, esq. was in possession of it in 1658;—Thomas Berney, esq. in 1720, &c.

ST. CLERE'S MANOR. In 1436 John Green, citizen of Norwich, had this manor of St. Clere, and Robert Norwich, sen. of Norwich, in 1444, died lord of it. Richard Arnolds, of Shipdham, esq. died possessed of it in January, 1472.

After this it came to the Wottons; William Wotton, esq. in the 19th of Henry VIII. was lord, and one of the barons of the exchequer, created by patent, July 10, in the 13th of Henry VIII.

John Wotton, esq. was his son, and died at Calais in the service of the king, January 20, in the 38th of Henry VIII. He left issue, Ann, daughter and sole heiress, who had three husbands;—first, sir Thomas Wodehouse, of Waxham;—second, Henry Repps, esq. of Mendham;—third, Baffingb. Gaudy, esq. and by him only had issue.

After

After this Edward Walpole, esq. of Houghton, in Gallow hundred, was lord. John Gerrard, in 1575, is said to have got from this Edward (whom he caused to sell this manor) about 1000 marks, and to enter into Jesuitical exercise.

On September 27, in the 39th of Elizabeth, sir Anthony Ashley, James Hussy, and John Goodman, esqrs. sold it to Calybut Walpole, esq. brother to Edward; and in the 42d of that queen, William Cobb, of Sandringham, esq. Edmund Bedingfield, of Ashill, esq. and Anthony Bedingfield, of Westleton, in Suffolk, esq. granted, for 350l. paid to them, an annuity of 20l. per ann. out of it to Owen Godfrey, of Hindringham, gent. and John Dix, of Wicmere, by deed, dated March 28.

Thomas Skyppe esq. died seised of it in 1632.

The Mandestons had also an interest here: the heirs of Robert de Mandeston held, in the 11th of Edward I. half a fee in this town, of the honor of Hockering.

The church of Ely had a lordship in the time of the Confessor, valued at 20s. but at the survey at 12s. and Ralph de Beaufoe held it then of the abbot of Ely.

This was afterwards held of the bishop of Ely, and was joined to the capital manor here.

In this town Hermerus de Ferrariis had invaded, or seized on, thirty-two acres of land, &c. valued at 5s. held by three free-men in king Edward's time, and were under protection at that time, being their absolute property.

BELHOUSE MANOR. Here was a considerable manor in this town, besides what is already observed, belonging to the earl Warren, who by his power had invaded, or seized on, the possessions of four free-men, who had, in king Edward's time, lands valued at 10s.

This lordship extended into that of Shipdham, which belonged to this earl, and the moiety of a church, which is mentioned in Domesday-book, was undoubtedly the church of North Tuddenham, which always belonged to this manor of Belhouse, and could not be in Shipdham, the patronage of that being in the church of Ely.

In the 13th of king John, Philip Gulafre impleaded Richard de Belhouse for two carucates of land here, of which William Gulafre, his great grandfather, was seized in the time of Henry I. Richard held it in right of his wife, Maud, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of John Pouchard, son and heir of sir William Pouchard.

In the 24th of Henry III. the lady Oliva, widow of John de Mareschall, lady of Hockering, and of this town, granted by fine the fishery at Witford to Maud de Belhouse.

Sir Richard de Belhouse was a commissioner to enquire after tenures, &c. in the third of Edward I. and Thomas de Belhouse, in the 9th of that king, held the manor of Tuddenham-Falldgate by the service of 20s. per ann. and half a fee. Here was then a capital messuage, &c. valued at 11l. 17s. 2d. per ann.

In the 36th of Edward III. sir Richard Belhouse died, and left three daughters and co-heiresses; Emme, married

married to sir Peter L'Estrange, lord of Frantham *Parva*; Maud, to William Bozun, of Whissonset, esq. and Joan, to James de Holveston; though some records say, that Joan, or one of these daughters and co heiresses, was married to — Oldhall, by whom she had Edmund, father of sir William Oldhall, who presented to this church in 1446, as lord of some part of Belhouse manor, which proves a relation to sir Richard Belhouse.

By an indenture, dated in the 49th of Edward III. between the prior of Pentney and the convent, on the one part, John Bozun, son and heir of William, it appears that John had given a 40l. bond to the prior (but to be void if the said prior and his successors should enjoy the manor of Bodney) and to Robert Trayle, &c. and their heirs, the manor of Belhouse-hall, in North-Tuddenham, with the moiety of the advowson, and not be impleaded thereof by John, or his heirs.

In the said year sir Peter Le'Strange, and James de Holveston, conveyed to Robert Trayle, &c. this manor, with a moiety of the advowson of the church, and they, as trustees, settled it on the said priory.

In the 3d of Henry IV. the prior held it by half a fee of lord Morley.

On the dissolution of the said priory it came to the crown, and was granted on July 21, in the 5th of Elizabeth, to Humphrey Shelton, and Ed. Hunt; after this it was in lord Morley, who presented in 1570; and in 1582 Edward lord Morley had a *præcipe* to deliver it to Thomas Newman, and George Aglionby, with the advowson of the church.

In 1621 Thomas Skipp, esq. was lord and patron. This family lived at Worstead in the reign of Henry VII. John Skipp, D. D. bishop of Hereford in the time of Henry VIII. was probably born there.

In this family it continued till John Skipp, gent. sold this lordship to Henry Repinhall, attorney, at Aylsham, from whom it came to — Evans, the present lord.—*Parkin.*

The temporalities of Norwich priory were 10d. of Wormegay 40d. of Castle Acre 13s. 4d. of St. Olave's of Herringfleet 2s. 11d.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Mary, and consisted of two medietyes, one in the patronage of Beaufoe's manor, the other of that of Belhouse. In the reign of Edward I. ——— Marshall was patron, and the rector of that mediety had then a manse and twenty acres, and sir Richard Belhouse was patron of the other; the rector of that had a manse and thirty acres. Each mediety was valued at twelve marks. The prior of Rumburgh had a portion of tithe valued at two marks. The present value of both the medietyes, being united, is 10l. 5s. 3d. halfpenny.

The church is a single pile, without any aisle, covered with lead, and has a square tower, with one bell; the chancel is covered with tiles.

Near the font is a marble grave-stone,—*In memory of Peter Forby, gent. who died April 14, 1676, aged 28.*

On a grave-stone, with a brass plate,—*Hic jaciunt corpora Thomæ Howlet, et Mariæ uxor. is ob. 10 die Oct. 1607, illa 27 Augusti, 1612.*

A marble

A marble grave-stone,—*In memory of Thomas Whale, gent. and Dorothy, his wife; he departed April 7, 1661, about 60; she the 16th of Dec. 1658, aged 54.*

In a window on the north side of the church,—Wotton impaling Southwell; the arms of William Wotton, baron of the Exchequer, and his wife; and in a window on the south side, Wotton impaling Brampton.

On a grave-stone the arms of Neve;—*Sarah le Neve vidua, nuper uxor Roberti le Neve, clerici, sacrae theologiae baccalauri, hic jacet sepulta, Januarij 6, Ao. Dni. 1637.*

Another, with the arms of le Neve,—*In memory of Francis Neve, who died Apr. 13, 1656.*

On the south side of the communion-table is an altar tomb of marble, &c. with three shields, Skipp impaling Rant, &c. to Katherine, wife of Thomas Skipp, of North Tuddenham, in Norfolk, esq. one of the gentlemen of his majesty's privy chamber; she expired anno Dni. 1629, aged 31.

On the south side of the east window is the bust of a man, with a long beard, and a ruff, and the arms of Skipp under it,—*Tibi et tuis.*—No name, but some verses, setting forth he was a person devoted to study, and there is no date.

In 1603 the rector returned 152 communicants, and Theodore Goodwyn, esq. to be patron.

Cuthbert Norris, rector in 1598, gave a little house in the town, and an acre and half of ground,
for

for the poor; and John Smith, rector in 1670, gave a house for the clerk of the parish.

In 1750 the Rev. Thomas Shelford was presented to this rectory by Leonard Shelford.

WESTFIELD, or WESTFELDA, as it is wrote in Doomsday-book. Alan earl of Richmond was lord of this town, of which the church of Ely was deprived, who held it in the time of the Confessor, and Facion was enfeofed of it by that earl, valued then at 60s. at the survey at 40s. it was six furlongs long, six broad, and paid 6d. gelt. How long Facion, or his descendents, held it, does not appear.

In the 8th of Edward I. John le Breton held it by the fourth part of a fee, and paid 10s. per annum castle-guard to Richmond; it was valued at 100s. per ann. and in the 21st of that king sir Philip le Breton held it.

Sir Edmund de Hederfet was lord in the 20th of Edward III. John duke of Bedford and of Richmond was the capital lord in the 14th of Henry VI. and in the 35th of that king Sir Thomas Kerdeston held it.

The prior of the house of Salutation of the Mother of God, of the Carthusians in London, had also an interest herein, and a charter for the manor of Westfield, and that of Middleton Cheney, in Northamptonshire, in the 1st year of Richard II.

On the dissolution of the Charter-house it came to the crown, and was granted in the 36th of Henry VIII. Feb. 26, to sir Thomas Wrottesly, and sir Richard Southwell, who held it in his own right in the
38th

38th of that king, and paid a fee-farm rent for it of 25s. 4d. per ann. to the crown.

From the Southwells it came to the Cranes, and Richard Crane, esq. brother and heir of sir William Crane, knt. held it in 1642, then a baronet; William Crane, esq. inherited it, who about 1662 settled it, with Mary, his wife, on Robert Clayton, esq. afterwards a knight, and lord mayor of London; and sir William Clayton inherited it in 1740: William Clayton, esq. of Harleyford, in Bucks, is the present lord and patron.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Andrew, and is a single long pile, covered with lead; the chancel is down, and has a square tower, with two bells. The present value is 7l. 16s. 8d. the ancient value 5l.

In a south window the arms of Beckham; and in a north window Ufford.

Sir John de Breton was lord and patron in the reign of Edward I. when the rector had a manse and fifteen acres of land.

In 1603 the rector returned sixty-five communicants here.—The temporalities of the priory of Westacre were 5s. 11d.

In 1733 this rectory was consolidated with Whinbergh; and in 1753 William Clayton, esq. presented the Rev. George Thomas.

WHINBERGH, or WHINBURGH, wrote Wineb'ga in Doomſday-book. Hermerus de Ferrariis was lord
G of

of this town by grant of the Conqueror, on the expulsion of Turchetel, who possessed it in the reign of king Edward, when it had a church endowed with six acres, valued with Garveston at 6l. but at the survey at 7l. and was measured with that town, and joined in payment of the gelt.

Hermerus had also other lands here, valued at 16s. &c. but after at 8s.

From Hermerus, who was lord of Wormegay, it came to the lords Bardolph, lords of the honor of Wormegay; and in the 18th of king John, Hubert de Burgo, chief justice of England, had that king's protection for this manor, and that of Stow-Bardolph, granted him at Lynn, on October 9. He married Beatrix, the widow of Dodo Bardolph, lord of it in her right.

In the 38th year of Henry III. William lord Bardolph impleaded Thomas le Parker, of Saham, &c. for entering his park, and taking his beasts, and for fishing in his ponds here, and taking his fish; the sheriff returned that it was in the liberty of the bishop of Ely, and therefore a *non omittas* was awarded. In the said year William had free-warren in his demesne land, and his park is said to contain five hundred acres of land.

In the 4th of Edward I. the rent of assize of the free-tenants was 25s. 9d. that of the villains 13l. 14s. 3d. 140 hens, and 700 eggs.

There was a messuage with eighty-five acres of land, thirteen of meadow and pasture, with a park, and a windmill, and paid 2s. per ann. to the bishop of Ely's manor of Shipdham.

In

In the 15th of Edward I. lord Bardolph claimed view of frank-pledge, assize of bread and beer, a weekly market on Thursday, and a fair yearly.

After this he claimed a grant for a market on Wednesday, and a fair on the eve and day of St. Margaret, and the day after, which we suppose set aside the former.

In the 45th of Edward III. here was a water-mill, with a pool, called Le-Ley, and a fishery, called Le-Mote.

This lordship being a member of the honor of Wormegay, had always the same lords, till in the 4th of Henry VIII. June 23, it was granted with the advowson of the church, late Francis lord Lovell's, to John Carr, esq. who conveyed it in the said year to John and Ralph Berney, &c.

After this it came to sir Richard Southwell, knt. who possessed it in 1544; and it was by them conveyed to the Cienes, of Wood-Rising; then to the Claytons, about 1662, and William Clayton, esq. is lord and patron.

The town gave name to the family of de Whinburgh, or de Quinbergh; Henry Whinburgh, gent. by his will, dated the 31st of October, 1544, had lands in this town, Yaxham, Garveston, Reymersston, and Thuxton; and John Whinburgh, gent. of Norfolk, was lord of Benacre, in Suffolk, in 1577.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and was valued at eleven marks; the present value is 6l. 18s. 6d. ob.

In the reign of Edward I. the rector had a manse and thirty acres of land.

The rector in 1603 returned sixty-three communicants to be in this parish.

The temporalities of the priory of Wymondham were 12s. 6d. ob.

In the church were the arms of Whinburgh, and Malherbe.

In 1753 the Rev. George Thomas was presented to this rectory (consolidated with Westfield in 1733) by William Clayton, esq. of Harleyford, in Bucks, and Saham-Tony, in Wayland.

WOOD-RISING, so called to distinguish it from Castle-Rising, near Lynn, but at the survey occurs by the name of Rising only, and takes its name as seated on watry meadows, William earl Warren had a grant of it on the expulsion of Alveva, a Saxon gentlewoman, who held it in king Edward's reign, with Feltwell, Wilton, Grimston, &c. all which the said earl obtained of the grant of the Conqueror: this lordship was then valued at 40s. at the survey at 60s. it was eight furlongs long, six broad, and paid 15d. gelt.

This town gave name to a family who were lords of it, and early enfeoffed under the earl Warren.

In the 12th of Henry III. John de Rising conveyed by fine, to Roger de Rising, a moiety of this lordship.

Roger

Roger de Wood-Rising granted in the 14th of Edward I. to John de Reedham, a messuage, with lands here.

In the 9th of Edward II. William de Rising was returned to have a lordship; and in the 18th of Edward III. John de Enepol, &c. sold their right in this lordship to William de Witchingham; and the said William had conveyed to him, by fine, in the 32d of that king, the eighth part of the manor of Wood-Rising, by others.

It is probable that this William de Witchingham, who was lord of Witchingham, a judge, and a knight, married an heiress of Roger, or William de Rising.

In the 2d year of Henry VI. Nicholas de Witchingham, esq. was lord.

About the beginning of the reign of Edward IV. it came to Richard Southwell, esq. by the marriage of Amy; one of the daughters and coheiresses of sir Edmund Witchingham, lord of this manor. Richard was escheator of Norfolk and Suffolk in the 38th of Henry VI. In the 4th of Edward IV. he was made by letters patent marshal of the Exchequer; and in the said year had a grant of twenty marks per ann. on the aulnage of Suffolk, and is stiled late servant to our well beloved cousin, John duke of Norfolk. This very honorable family took their name from the ancient town of Southwell, in Nottinghamshire.

John Southwell, esq. of Felix-hall, in Essex, grandfather of the aforesaid Richard, in the 29th of Henry VI. was member of parliament for Lewes, in Suffex, and lived at Barham-hall, in Suffolk.

Robert, his son, was also lord of Barham-hall, in Suffolk, and married Cecilia, daughter of Thomas Sharington, esq. of Cranworth, in this hundred, and is buried in the church of Barham, with this inscription on his grave-stone:—*Robert Southwell, esq. apprentice of the law, and justice of the peace, who died September 27, 1514.*

He was succeeded by Richard Southwell, esq. of Wood-Rising, whose eldest son, sir Robert, died without issue: he was made seneschal of all the honors and manors forfeited to the king by Edmund De-la-Pole, in Norfolk and Suffolk, or by his mother, the duchess of Suffolk, in the 19th of Henry VII. and in the following year, by patent, chief butler of England.

In the 4th of Henry VIII. he was made supervisor of the king's lands and castles, by act of parliament, and receiver-general of them: he died March 31, in the 6th of Henry VIII. seised of this manor, held of the Duchy of Lancaster, and left Richard, son of his brother Francis, his heir.

Francis Southwell, esq. brother to sir Robert, was auditor of the Exchequer, and had two sons, sir Richard, and sir Robert Southwell.

Sir Richard, his eldest son, was a great favorite of Henry VIII. one of the visitors appointed by him of the monasteries in Norfolk, on their suppression; one of the privy council to that king, Edward VI. and queen Mary, master of the ordnance, and armory, and high steward of the Duchy of Lancashire.

In the reign of queen Mary he made a remarkable speech (1554) in the House of Lords, on that queen's being

being big with-child, and an act of parliament thereon passed about the government of the realm, and the person of the child, in case of that queen's decease.

It appears by the account of Ambrose Jermyn, esq. in the 37th of Henry VIII. that he was lord of the following manors in Norfolk: Wood-Rising, Cranworth, Butler's, or Botetourt's, in Letton; Whinbergh *cum membris*, Westfield, Scoulton, Carbroke, Woodhall, Carbroke *Magna*, or the preceptory manor, with the impropriate rectory, &c. Saham-Tony, Infoken, and Outfoken, Cressingham *Parva*, Tottington, Campsey, and Mortimer's, Thexton, Morton *cum* Ringland, Kipton, in Weasenham, West Rudham, Tofts, Bircham, Burnham, Lexham's, Geyton, Brancaster, Burnham-Thorpe, *alias* Wymondham's, Horsham, and Walfoken-Pipenhoe.

He married, first, Thomasine, daughter of sir Robert Darcy, knt. of Danbury, in Essex, by whom he had an only daughter, Elizabeth, married to George Heneage, esq. his second wife was Mary, daughter of Thomas Darcy, of Danbury aforesaid, by whom he had Richard Darcy, *alias* Southwell, esq. of Horsham St. Faith's, and Thomas Darcy, *alias* Southwell, esq. of Morton, but they being born in the time of his first lady, when Mary (whom he afterwards married) was his mistress, were illegitimate*.

Great part of his inheritance, with this lordship, came to his nephew, Thomas Southwell, son of sir Robert Southwell, by Margaret, his wife, daughter and sole heiress of sir Thomas Neville, fourth son of George lord Abergavenny.

G 4 *See Henry's History of Sacrilege.* Sir

* See sir Henry Spelman's History of Sacrilege.

Sir Richard built here a large and splendid seat, with a park adjoining, where queen Elizabeth was entertained in 1578.

Sir Robert Southwell, younger brother of sir Richard afore said, was master of the rolls, July 1, in the 33d of Henry VIII. lived at Mereworth, in Kent, and was also chancellor of the court of augmentations, and high-sheriff of Kent, in the reign of queen Mary. Thomas Southwell, esq. his son and heir, inherited this manor, as legal heir to his uncle, sir Richard, and married three wives; by one of which he left sir Robert Southwell, rear-admiral in the famous engagement with the Spanish fleet in 1588. He married the lady Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Howard, earl of Effingham, lord high admiral of England.

At his death, October 12, 1599, sir Thomas was his son and heir; he died in 1643, having wasted most of his estate, and sold this lordship to sir Francis Crane: he left four daughters and coheiresses to the remainder.

In the 2d of James I. the rent of assise of this manor was 12l. 15s. 7d. ob. of the demesne land 93l. 3s. 6d. perquisites of court 58s. 8d. The whole rent was 191l. 12s. 3d. ob.

Sir Francis Crane, knt. who purchased this lordship of sir Thomas Southwell, was chancellor of the garter, and brought into England the manufacture of curious tapestry, settled at Mortlack, in Surrey; gave 500l. to the re-building of St. Paul's church, in London; and added four poor knights to the number of those in Windsor-castle, with 40l. per ann. to each of them: he died at Paris, June 6, 1636, lord
of

of this manor, and was succeeded by Richard Crane, esq. his brother, created baronet March 20, 1642: he lived here, and died in 1645.

By Mary, daughter of a Mr. Bond, his adopted heir and niece, it came to William Crane, esq. son of John Crane, of Loughton, in Buckinghamshire, clerk of the kitchen to James I. and Charles I.

About the year 1638 he conveyed this lordship to Gabriel Bedell, citizen and stationer, of London, executor of John Bedell, esq. of London; and Edward Bedell, esq. his nephew, was lord in 1682, and presented to this church.

In August, 1715, George Bedell, esq. died lord, and unmarried, and left two sisters and co-heiresses, Mrs. Bringloe, and Mrs. Burges, who sold this lordship to Pinkney Weyland, esq. of London; and John Weyland, esq. is lord and patron.

The temporalities of the priory of Lewes were 41s.—of Wendling abbey 14s.—of Flitcham priory 27s. 3d.—of the monks of Thetford 12s.

REEDHAM'S MANOR. John de Reedham had a lordship in the 14th of Edward I. and John de Reedham was returned to be lord in the 9th of Edward II. Afterwards it was united to Wood-Rising manor.—Sir Guy de Botetourt's lordship of Cranworth also extended herein, and he was returned as lord in the 9th of Edward II.

Reedham's probably was what the king held at the survey, and in Oeseley lands, &c. valued in Hingham, and after united to Wood-Rising manor.

The church of Wood-Rising is dedicated to St. Nicholas. In the reign of Edward I. the rector had a manse, with two acres, and it was valued at twelve marks.

William, second earl Warren, granted the patronage of it to the priory of Lewes, and a portion of tithe belonged to it, valued at 10s. per ann.

The present value of this rectory is 4l. 18s. 3d. and is discharged from first-fruits and tenths.

Roger de Wood-Rising sued the prior of Lewes in the 8th of Edward I. for the right of patronage; the prior pleaded that Roger, grandfather of the aforesaid Roger, gave it by deed to the priory.

In the 29th of Henry VIII. Robert the prior, &c. of Lewes, granted the patronage by fine to that king, who in the said year, December 22, gave it to the Duke of Norfolk.

Christopher Sutton, A.M. prebend of Westminster, and rector here, returned forty communicants in 1603.

In the chancel, a grave-stone—*In memory of sir Francis Crane, with his arms on a wall.*

On another,—*In memory of Robert, eldest son and heir of Robert Southwell, knight, by Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Charles lord Howard, lord-admiral of England, who died September 23, 1586.*

Also an ancient altar monument of a warrior, in alabaster, deprived now of its brasses, &c.

In 1750 the Rev. Colby Bullock was presented to this rectory by Mrs. Elizabeth Bringloe, and others, *p. j.*

YAXHAM, in Doomſday-book is wrote Iacheſham, taking its name from its being near to a morafs, or bog, as Yaxley, in Suffolk, and Huntingdonſhire. Roger Bigot, anceſtor of the earls of Norfolk, had a grant of a lordſhip here from the Conqueror, with thirty acres of land, of which Aldin, a prieſt, and a free-man, was deprived. It was then valued at 10s. per ann. and was ſeven furlongs long, and five broad, and paid 23d. gelt. Ralph, ſon of Walter, held it under Bigot.

Roger Bigot alſo held ſoon after the conqueſt, of the abbot of Ely, lands, &c. but at the ſurvey he held this of the king, and it was then valued at 20s. ſo that it appears both the Conqueror and Roger made no ſcruple of robbing the church of their poſſeſſions.

The family de Curzun, or Curſon, were early enfeoffed of this lordſhip, which Ralph de Curzon was lord of in the 1ſt of king John, and held of the earl of Norfolk.

William Gerberge was lord in the 3d of Henry IV. John Curſon is ſaid to have held a ſecond part of it in the 2d of Henry VI. and in the 11th of Henry VI. Henry Sturmer, and John Docking, had an intereſt in it.

In the 15th of that king, John Crane, eſq. of Wood-norton, conveyed to ſir William Oldhall a moiety of the manor of Ilney, and two parts of the manor of Yaxham.

Sir

Sir John Curson, of Billingsford, by his last will, dated January 10, in the 11th of Edward IV. ordered his trustees, if they should recover his right in the 3d part of the manor of Yaxham, to settle it on Edward, his youngest son.

This lordship of Yaxham was about this time divided into four parts, or manors;—first, Curson's, sold to Henry Sturmer, whose wife sold it to John Hastings, and sir John Curson claimed a right herein;—second, Gerberge's manor, of which Hugh Gerberge was lord; this was divided into two parts, Crane held one, and sold it to Henry Sturmer, from whom it came to Hastings, and John Docking had the other part, who sold it to William Paston, esq. —third, Ilney's manor; this was also divided into two parts, Crane had one, and sold it to Sturmer, and he to Hastings, and John Docking had the other part, who sold it to Paston.

John Hastings, esq. son and heir of sir Edward, John Heydon, William Stather, &c. were querents in a fine, and Roger Drury, and Ann, his wife, deforcients, of the manors of Yaxham, Curson, Gerberge, and Ilney, conveyed to Stather in the 16th of Edward IV. from the heirs of Ann; she was daughter and heiress of Henry Sturmer, and had also Southwell manor, in Geyst, and that of Besthorpe, of her own inheritance.

About 1640 Mr. Hardy was lord: his son, the Rev. Mr. Hardy, rector of Elsing, inherited it, and sold it to William Murrall, yeoman, of Sparham, lord of it in 1713.

In

In the reign of Philip and Mary it paid 7s. per ann. to the see of Norwich, formerly due to the penitentiary of the abbey of St. Bennet's of Holme.

Hermerus de Ferrariis had four socmen which belonged to his predecessor, with land, &c. in king Edward's reign, then valued at 4s. at the survey at 2s.

Hermerus was ancestor of the lords Bardolph, barons of Wormegay; and in the 38th of Henry III. lord Bardolph had a grant of free-warren.

In the 9th of Edward II. Robert Atte-Haghe held here, in Shipdham, and Letton, &c. a quarter of a fee, and a moiety of the rode-fee, of the honor of Wormegay, and in the 5th of Henry VI. Robert Fishpoole held the same.

In the 38th of Henry VIII. sir Richard Southwell held it, and so came to the Cranes and Claytons.

Alan earl of Richmond had two socmen, with land, &c. belonging to his manor of Cossey, under which it was valued, of which earl Guert was lord in king Edward's time.

The lord of Cossey held it in the 41st of Henry III. and the Bardolphs refused to pay suit of court to the lord of the hundred. The temporalities of Wendling abbey were 3s.

The church of Yaxham is dedicated to St. Peter. William de Wendling was patron of it in the reign of Edward I. and about the same time sir Robert de Curson, the rector, had a manse with forty acres of land, which was valued at twenty-two marks.—The present

present value is 10l. 9d. ob. and pays first fruits and tenths.

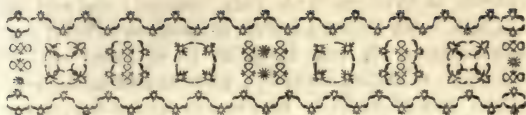
In 1585 Thomas Hogan, esq. was patron; and in 1603 the rector returned 180 communicants.

The church has a nave, north and south aisle covered with lead, and a chancel tiled: at the west end of the nave is a round tower, with five bells. In a south window of the chancel are the arms of Wendling abbey; and in the windows of the south aisle, Hastings, and Foliot.

In the 1st year of king John, William earl Warren granted by fine the advowson to Ralph de Curson, and Robert de Curson in the 43d of Henry III. conveyed it to William de Wendling, who granted it to the priory of Wendling.

In 1768 the Rev. Grigson Heyhoe was presented to this rectory on his own petition.





T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
N O R F O L K.

Hundred of SHROPHAM,

WROTE in Doomsday-book Serepham; is bounded on the east by Depwade, on the north by Wayland and Forehoe, on the west by Grimshoe, and on the south by Guiltcross, from which it is parted by the rivulet that runs from Quidenham-Meer into the little Ouse, at Thetford, by the Atlas called *Thet*, without any reason; for we do not find it so named in any evidence whatever. This is a large hundred, (or half hundred, as it is sometimes called,) the fee of which from the Confessor's time to the latter end of Henry VI. constantly attended the Castle manor of Buckenham, being sometimes whole, and sometimes divided, as that was, but then it was
A wholly

wholly in William De-la-Pole, marquis and earl of Suffolk, who levied a fine of it between himself and his trustees. It was in John De-la-Pole, earl of Lincoln, who died in 1487; after in Edmund De-la-Pole, earl of Suffolk, who was beheaded for treason in 1513, and so it became forfeited to the crown; immediately after it was granted to Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, and his heirs, who about 1545 exchanged it for other lands with the crown, in which it continued some time. In 1573 the queen lett it to Edward Fludd, gent. for twenty-one years, at 10l. a year, who surrendered his letters patent to be cancelled in 1584; and the queen for 15l. fine lett it to Thomas Lovel, gent. for twenty-one years. In 1622 it was granted by letters patent to sir George Marshall, knt. Robert Causfield, esq. and their heirs in fee, to be held by the fee-farm rent of 10l. a year. In 1628 Mr. Robert Tichbourne, and Mr. Andrew Palmer, held it in trust, with others, for Robert Hethe, serjeant at law, who jointly with his trustees, in 1634, sold it to Robert Wilton, esq. in whose family it continued till Nicholas Wilton, of Wilby, esq. sold it to Henry Kedington, esq. of Hockham, who sold it to Ralph Hare, esq. of Hargham; and Hugh Hare, esq. of Hargham, the heir of that family, is now lord, who holds it by the aforesaid yearly fee-farm rent. The ancient rent that it paid before the forfeiture was only half a mark; the leets of the whole hundred belong to it, with all superior liberties, except those of Eccles, Hockham-Magna, and Old Buckenham. All the towns are in Rockland deanry, (which is made up of this and Guiltcross hundred) except Thetford, which, though it is in this hundred, we look upon as single, it being a deanry of itself, belonging to the archdeaconry of Norwich, as this doth to the archdeaconry of Norfolk.

This

This hundred paid for every tenth 100l. 14s. 4d. out of which the deductions came to 7l. 1s. so that the king received clear 93l. 13s. 4d.

In the Conqueror's time the whole hundred belonged to the king, of whom Godric farmed it, and and paid 40d. rent.

In 1285 the king brought an action for this hundred against Robert de Tatefshale, to know what right he had in it, who answered, that he held it jointly with Roger de Montealt, Margaret Bassett, John le Strange, Maud de Erdington, Mabell de Suthley, and Richard Fitz-Alan, a minor, of the inheritance of Hugh de Albany, who died seised of it; and being called upon in the same manner in relation to his market at Attleburgh, and market, fair, and privileges in Wilby, and New Buckenham, he returned the same answer.

In this hundred are the following towns, to which we add the number of votes polled by freeholders resident in each at the last contested election, March 23, 1768, for knights of the shire:

		W.	deG.	A.	C.
Attleburgh	-	27	27	1	1
Belfhorpe	- -	1	1	6	6
Brettenham	-	0	0	1	1
Bridgham	- -	1	3	2	2
Buckenham, New and Old,	- - }	41	37	18	14
Eccles	- -	1	1	0	0
Ellingham, Great		23	26	6	3
Hargham	- -	1	1	0	0
Hockham	- -	0	0	0	0
Illington	- -	0	0	0	0
A 2				Kilverston	

Kilverston	-	-	0	0	0	0
Harling	-	-	3	3	0	0
Rockland All Saints, and St. Andrew,	-	-	7	13	7	1
Roudham	-	-	0	0	0	0
Shropham	-	-	8	7	1	0
Snetterton	-	-	1	2	0	1
Thetford	-	-	25	26	35	29
Wretham, East and West,	-	-	3	3	0	0
Willy	-	-	3	3	1	1
Total			145	153	78	59

This hundred is in length from Besthorpe to Thetford about thirteen miles, and ten in width from Buckenham to West Wretham. It is a fine enclosed country northwards, but is open and very barren to the southward. It has one whole stage of the great post road from Norwich to London, and many parts of this county are beautifully planted with fir and other wood. It pays to the general rate of the county 20l. 8s. 3d. to a six-hundred pound levy, and has the following seats and principal houses:

<i>Buckenham St. Andrew,</i>	Francis Head, esq.
<i>Eccles,</i>	William Woodley, esq.
<i>Hargham,</i>	Hugh Hare, esq.
<i>Kilverston,</i>	Charles Wright, esq.
<i>Shropham,</i>	John Barker, esq.
<i>Wretham, West,</i>	William Colhoun, esq.
<i>Wretham, East,</i>	William Grigson, esq.

ATTLEBURGH,

ATTLEBURGH, or ATTLEBOROUGH. This place, without doubt, hath been very famous in early times, as all authors that speak of it unanimously agree: If we may believe John Brame, a monk of Thetford, whose history is extant in Bennet college library, at Cambridge, it was some time not only a city, but the metropolis of all Norfolk, founded by Atlinge, then king of that province, in order to oppose Rond, king of Thetford, and by him fortified with a ditch, wall, four gates, and four towers; and from this Atlinge he would have it called Atlinge's-Burgh, or Attleburgh; but as to the part of its towers, and gates, we cannot be persuaded to credit it, there being no appearance or remains of any such walls, gates, or towers, as he speaks of in this town, some parts of which, in all likelihood, would have remained, as well as those of other buildings, far older than these, it being unlikely that in the Danish incursions they could have time, or materials, to rear them up. Mr. le Neve imagines that it was called Eihelburgh, because it might belong in the time of the Saxons to some eminent nobleman of that name, who was nearly related to the Saxon kings, and had his residence here, being induced to think thus, because this part belonged to the crown till the Conqueror's time. But neither of these etymologies seem right, and therefore, if we may have liberty of conjecture, we think the present name shews its signification, which it will be proper to observe hath suffered but little change from the time of the Confessor to this day. Attleburc, Burg, or Burgh, is the same, and it being certain that the termination *burgh*, or *borough*, (as we now pronounce it,) always signifies a castle, fort, or such like, as the learned Spelman, in his *Icenia*, justly observes, we may conclude that it was called At-le-Burgh, or the town at the Burgh, or Burgh-Town, from its being situated by an ancient burgh,

or

or fortification, and from its being larger, and of more repute at that time than its neighbours. That this burgh was a fortification of hills only is plain, because there are no other remains, and therefore most likely was made at the time when the Danes ravaged this part of the country, and so far the old monk may be right, that when they got possession of Thetford it is not unlikely the inhabitants of the country might assemble, and fortify themselves here, in opposition to their enemies, who had done the same there; and indeed we think that this burgh was the head of the hundred till the neighbouring castle of Buckenham was built, after the removal of the chief of the inhabitants from it, to the present situation of the town, which is far better than its old one at the Burgh. And as a further confirmation, the Burgh is not only now called Burgh, or Burrough-Street, but in Doomsday-book that is called Attelburc, and the present town is *the Other Alleburc*; and that the first castle at Buckenham had its rise upon the dereliction of this burgh is likely, because the whole of this Attleburgh at first was not a manor held of the castle, but an actual part of the Castle-Manor, called the part at the Plasches, afterwards Plasset's, and had two parts, or the whole of the advowson, belonging to Plasset's part, appendant to it, that is, one half to the part of Plasset's manor, which contained great part of Besshorpe, and the other part as belonging to this, the other part, or third part, belonging to the manor of the other Attleburgh, where the church was built. It seems the removal at first might be occasioned by the lowness and moistness of the situation, and if so, the aforesaid monk in his translation might only mistake the name of the place for a person, viz. At-ling-Burgh, or the Burgh at the *Ing*, or Watery-Place, (or At Le Plats, or Plasches, as it was called by the Normans) for Atling's-Burgh, or the Burgh of Atling;

for

for he tells us, his history is only copied from two ancient books of the same sort, one of which was in old French, and the other in English, both of which he compared, and made his Latin translation by: and indeed, to do him justice, (though we are sensible the accounts of things in it do seem at first entire fables) yet upon examination several of them, if not all, are in some measure true, and the histories of the many battles in this part of the country, and especially in Guiltcross, Grimshoe, this, and the adjacent hundreds, might be the excursions of the Danes, from their great rendezvous at Thetford, recorded by somebody near hand at that time, and so preserved in the neighbourhood, and afterwards given to that monastery. The many *tumuli* in these hundreds shew us that there were such excursions; and it is plain that this history could not be of such light esteem as we think it, because the Normans after the conquest would not have thought it worth their while to have translated it into their language, and though we meet with the names of many kings, as they are called, which were never heard of but in this book, we look upon it that that there might be such persons, who were heads and leaders of those bands, and as such called kings of those places where these burghs, or chief rendezvous were, and that because their names are pure Saxon, or Danish; and what induces us to think that the monk was not the inventor of these accounts (as some would intimate) is, because in the same book, where he descends so low as to treat of the affairs of his own monastery, just before, and in his own time, he is a faithful historian, and is so far from giving us any fables of his own invention, that he tells us, whenever he adds any thing of the *legend* sort, where he had what he recites, so that we must own we are apt to think he had two copies of the history, as he as-

serts,

ferts, and that there is more of reality in it than at first sight we may imagine; for we find, agreeable to the assertion of its being an ancient city, that "In the year 841, Edmund, son of Alkmund king of Saxony, was born at Nuremburg, in Saxony, of queen Siwara; and soon after it happened that Offa king of the East-Angles, who had no heir, passed through Saxony in his journey to the Holy-Land, where he went in pilgrimage, to beseech God to give him an heir, and calling upon his cousin Alkmund, he adopted Edmund, his son, his heir, and then hastened to Jerusalem, where having performed his vows, he returned; but on his return, at a place called St. George's-Arm, he was taken violently ill, upon which he immediately sent for his council, appointed Edmund his successor, and sent him his ring, which he received from the bishop when he was made king of the East Angles. After he was dead the Angles went to the king of Saxony, and demanded Edmund, his son, and received him as Offa's successor, and hastening home, they landed at Hunstanton, in Smithdon hundred, from whence they carried him to the ancient city called Attleburgh, where he lived a whole year, yielding himself up chiefly to devotion; here he perfected what he had begun in Saxony, namely, to repeat all the Psalms *without* a book, and at the year's end he went to Suffolk, &c." From whence it appears that it was certainly then a place of great repute, and might be afterwards re-fortified, upon the Danes coming to these parts. It is plain that the hills of the fortification, or burgh, were very remarkable in the time of Henry II. for then the family that dwelt within them took their surname from them: William de Fossato de Attleburc lived at that time here, who, with his descendents, are called in old English "*atte*
the

the Dyke," (now Dikes, or Dix) and all these things being duly weighed, and compared, we could not omit them, knowing how much the account of Attleburgh hath invalidated the rest of his history. And thus having given our thoughts of the original of this place, we shall proceed to treat of the several manors, &c. which have been, or now are in this town.

PLASSET, or PLASSING-HALL MANOR, belonged to Toradre, a Dane, in the Confessor's time, and another part to Turkill, one of that nation also; which shews us that the Danes had got possession of this place, and that its decay was owing to their seizing it. After Toradre's expulsion, or death, it belonged to the castle, and continued in the crown till the Conqueror gave it to Roger Fitz-Reynard, at whose death it was re-joined to the castle, to which it had belonged almost ever since its foundation, which, in all appearance, was owing to the Danes forcing them hence; upon which the castle was first erected, in order to oppose them; and accordingly, when they were forced to quit possession, the whole was seized and added to the castle, with which it was given to William de Albany, and descended with the co-heiresses of that family to sir Robert de Tateshale, and from him to the Bernaks, as Plasset's in Besthorpe did, which was a part of this manor, to which one third part of the advowson belonged, and another third part to this, so that there were two third parts belonging to Plasset's, this and Besthorpe being reputed as one manor; for in 1312 Edward II. summoned sir William de Bernak to shew cause why he hindered him presenting to two parts of the church of Attleburgh, which was void, and to which he ought to present, because the advowson was parcel of the inheritance of Hugh de Albany, earl of Arundel, at whose death the king seized his estate and advowsons, be-

cause he held of him in chief, and died without issue, and his inheritance was divided among his four sisters, all of whom, except Cecily, had their several parts in manors, lands, and advowsons assigned to them, as the custom was; but as neither the said Cecily, nor her heirs, had requested the king to grant out of his hands her part of the advowsons, therefore the advowson of two parts of this church, which was not assigned to any of the other parceners, remained in the king's hands, as belonging to the part of Robert de Montealt, heir of the said Cecily. To which William answered, and proved that the advowson belonged to the manor of Plasset, which was assigned to Robert de Tatteshale, who enfeoffed him in the said manor; and that if it had not been so, it could not belong to the king, because Plasset's manor is not held of the king in chief; upon which sir William recovered the advowson, and presented accordingly.

In 1285 sir Robert de Tatteshale had view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale, free-warren, gallows, and a Thursday market in Attleburgh, all which were conveyed by him to sir William Bernak, and his heirs.

In 1438 Ralph lord Cromwell, who had two turns in the advowson, (sir John Clifton, knt. having the third, in right of Margaret, his mother) granted his advowson to sir John de Radcliff, knt. and his heirs, together with the manor of Plasset, in Attleburgh, (which was now separated from Plasset's in Besthorpe,) and so it became joined to Mortimer's manor, with which it now remains, the third turn in the advowson of the two parts being joined before 1516.

BACONSTHORPE, CROWS-HALL, or COPSY MANOR, belonged to Alfred, an Englishman, at the conquest,
who

who held it of Buckenham-castle, to which it was after joined, being given by Henry I. to William de Albany, who added it to Plasset's manor, with which it continued till the said William enfeoffed Alured de Atleburc in it, who held this, and other estates of his gift, by the service of two knight's fees. In 1251 Jeffrey Crowe owned it, from whose family it took its name.

In 1337 Edmund de Baconsthorpe had this, and Welbourne manor and advowson; and in 1347 this, and Castor, by Norwich, was settled on Thomas Moyne, and his heirs; but in 1393 the manor of Crows-hall, called Copfy, was settled by Ralph Gedding on Cecily his wife, &c.

In 1397 sir William March, knt. had it; and in 1457 sir John Clifton, knt. held the manor of Baconsthorpe, Copfy, or Crows-hall; and it fell soon after into Mortimer's manor. It took its name of Baconsthorpe from its ancient lord; and is now called (by corruption) Bansthorpe, which is a hamlet, with a leet belonging to it, where the lord of the hundred, who keeps it, swears a constable yearly, whose power extends to this hamlet only.

CHAUNTICLER'S, commonly called CHANCELLOR'S, in Attleburgh, was part of Mortimer's manor, granted by William de Mortimer to William Pony-aunt, who held it of him in 1296, at a quarter of a fee, and it extended into Ellingham and Bettleorpe. In 1359 Thomas Chaunticler, of Attleburgh, owned it; this Thomas built the north chapel, or transept of the church.

In 1481 Thomas de Brampton, esq. in right of his wife, died lord. It continued in this family, and in

1561 William Brampton, esq. owned the manor of Chancellor, in Attleburgh, and Besthorpe, to the last of which it was soon after joined, and, we suppose, hath continued so ever since.

In 1619 Robert earl of Suffex was lord of the manors of BRIDGHAM and CORIE, in Attleburgh, which in 1547 belonged to Peter Moulde, and Thomas Pooley, and were now united to Mortimer's; and this is all we meet with in relation to those manors.

MORTIMER'S, in ATTLEBURGH, contained the third part of the town, or all the other Attleburc, or the whole of that part where the present church and town stands, and accordingly a third part of the advowson always belonged to it, and continues to this day a separate institution. In the time of the Confessor Turkill the Dane had possession of this, which was valued at 40s. but was risen to 3l. in the Conqueror's time, who gave it, as a manor of that value, to Roger Fitz-Reynard: the whole of both the Attleburghs, or of the present town, which includes both, was then about four miles long, and two miles broad, and paid to the Dane-Geld 34d. ob. It came to the Mortimers very early, if not in the time of the Conqueror, with whom that family came into England. There are two towns in France of this name, one in Normandy, the other in Poictou, both written Mortimer; but neither of them being by the sea side, Monsieur de Valois imagines them to be called *Mortimars*, and so should be rendered in Latin *De Mortuo Marisco*, and not *De Mortuo Mari*; and indeed it might be anciently written, by abbreviation, (which was usual in those times) *De Mortuo Mar.* which answers either to *Mari*, or *Marisco*, though we think it is much the same, for we suppose that *mare* signifies not only the sea, but any large stagnation of water, and that hence

is derived our English word *mere*, *meer*, or *mare*, for a large water; and thus the *Mare Mortuum*, which is a lake in Judea, so called because it never moves, might give name to these places, which though they were not situated by the sea, yet stood near some such stagnated waters, or fens. Mr. Dugdale thinks, that Robert de Mortimer, who lived in king John's time, was the first of the family that was concerned in Norfolk; and the Atlas tells us, that they are descended of the lords Mortimer of Wigmore, both which are mistakes, for the arms of this family, and those of Wigmore, being always quite different, it is a plain argument to us, that they are of a different extract, and might assume their names from different places. That this family was of French rise is evident from the very arms, viz. Or. Semi de Fleures de-liz, Sab. the very arms of France, at that time, only the colours varied; and as to the other point, the first of the family that we meet with here was sir William de Mortuomari, or Mortimer, of Atleburc, knt. whose effigy, riding full speed on horseback, with his sword drawn in one hand, and his shield of arms, as before, in his other, is appendant to an original deed of his in the Cotton library.

The next that we find here was sir Robert Mortimer, knt. who lived in the time of Henry II. In Somner's antiquities of Canterbury we read, that in 1181, "in a procession at Christ's church, in Canterbury, sir Robert Mortimer, who was under excommunication for his contumacy, because he would not obey the law, being questioned for a wrong done to the church of Canterbury, in taking from the manor of Deepham, in this county, a certain parcel of land belonging to the monks, intruded himself into the company; prior Alan espying him there, informed the archbishop (who was then present) of it, and that

a second time, because the archbishop would have connived at it; but when the whole company was come into the church, sir Robert with them, and mass begun, the prior required the convent to cease, who obeyed, and so the excommunicant, to his shame, was by a strong hand thrown out of the church, and then they proceeded in their devotions."

He was succeeded by William, his son and heir, and he by sir Robert, his son and heir, who in the year 1194 was forced to find sureties to Richard I. because he had presumed to hold a tournament* without *royal* licence. This sir Robert, and William his son, were both against king John in his Baron's wars, in the year 1205; and in 1215, sir Robert being then also in arms with the rebellious barons, forfeited his lands in Lincolnshire.

In 1218 sir William de Mortimer held one knight's fee here, in Barnham Broom, Little Ellingham, and Tofts, half a fee in Stanford, and Buckenham Parva, and another half fee in Scoulton, of the earl Warren. In 1250 he had a charter for free warren in his manors of Attleburgh, &c. He was succeeded by sir Robert de Mortimer, his son and heir, who lived in the year 1263, when the barons rose against Henry III. among whom sir Henry Hattings, who was very active against the king, came and besieged the castle of Buckenham, because sir Robert de Tauteshale, the
second

* A tournament, otherwise called jousting, or tilting, was a martial exercise of armed knights, encountering one another with spears or lances, a diversion, in ancient times, much used, but now quite laid aside. No one could hold any public tournament without *royal* licence, at that time, for fear of any conspiracies that might be raised against the government under that pretence.

second of that name, who who was owner of it, held it, declaring openly for the king, and great part of the neighbouring country sent men and arms, and what assistance they could to him, in order to enable him to endure the siege. Among others, sir Robert de Mortimer sent a servant of his, called Leonine, to the castle, during the siege, with some private information to the besieged, (as it should seem) for the siege being raised upon it; sir Henry went to sir Robert's manors in this county, burnt the houses, and wasted the stocks found upon them: whether sir Robert himself was killed we do not know, but he died this very year, for in the year following William de Mortimer, his son and heir, was in the custody of the earl Warren, who now was of the king's side, so that he and his goods were safe, and protected by the castle.

Sir William being always attached, as well as his father, to the king's side, was summoned by the king to attend his service among his judges and council. In 1285 he had the king's letters of protection during his absence beyond sea, about the king's business; and in the same year had liberty of free-warren, assize of bread and ale, view of frankpledge, and waif, allowed him in this manor. In 1293, king Edward going into Gascoign, he had command to fit himself with horse and arms, (as the chief men in England then did) and to attend the king at Portsmouth on the first of September, to assist him against the French. In 1266 he was summoned to parliament, among the barons of the realm, in which year, being again in France, with the earl of Lincoln, to relieve Bellaguard, at that time besieged by the earl of Arras, he was taken prisoner, and carried to Paris, where he died, as it seems, being then called William de Mortimer, of Kingston, in Cambridgeshire.

The chapel of the Holy Cross, founded by sir William for his own interment, is now standing, and is called Mortimer's chapel, it being the south transept, or chapel, opposite to Chauncier's, which is on the north side; and by reason of the officiating priests that daily served in these chapels, before the foundation of the college, this church was in the collegiate form, and had service performed in it according to the collegiate manner. He died November 12, 1297, leaving Constantine his son and heir, then sixteen years old, whom the king seized as his ward, but in 1298 John earl Warren sued the king for his wardship, which belonged to him in right of the manor of Attleburgh, which was held of him. In 1307 he was one of the great men in the retinue of John de Warren, earl of Surrey, who was then with the king in France, at his interview and marriage with Isabel, daughter of Philip king of France. In 1309 he held his manors and lands in Attleburgh, Ellingham, and Barnham Parva, of the earl Warren, at one fee; and in 1310 had a charter for a yearly fair at his manor of Attleburgh, and was in the Scotch expeditions. In 1329, upon the death of Thomas de Cailly, the custody of Buckenham-castle was committed to him; he died the twelfth of November, and was buried in Mortimer's chapel, leaving sir Constantine Mortimer, knt. his son and heir, who in 1335 was steward of the household to Eleanor, countess of Gueldres, the king's sister, and had an allowance of 22l. for the charges of his men and horses in that service. In 1337 he had a charter for free-warren in all his lordships and lands.* In 1341 he was summoned to parliament among the barons,

* In 1332 there was a sir John de Mortimer, of Attleburgh, knt. who was sir Constantine's uncle, being a younger son of sir William Mortimer, and brother to sir Constantine, senior.

rons, but never after; he was the same year, in the expedition made by the king into France, one of the retinue to Ralph lord Stafford, so he was also in the expedition in the year 1344. In 1349 he had the king's licence to travel to Rome, with one valet, two horses, and two servants. In 1451 an invasion being threatened by the French, he was joined in commission with John d'Engaine, for arraying of all men that had able bodies, and sufficient estates, in Cambridge, and Huntingdonshires, for the defence of the realm. He died in 1354, and leaving no issue by Agnes his wife, sir Robert de Mortimer,* his brother, became sole heir, both to him, and sir Constantine his father. He was lord of Great Ellingham. This sir Robert founded the college, or chantry, of the Holy Cross, in Attleburgh, and was buried here in 1387. He had two sons; Constantine Mortimer, esq. his youngest son, was possessed of the manors of Great Ellingham, Barnham, Bekerston, and Corston, in Norfolk, and had free-warren allowed him to them all in 1405.

Sir Thomas Mortimer, his eldest son, died before him, beyond sea, leaving issue by Mary his wife, who died May 2, 1406. She was daughter of Nicholas Park, esq. own mother to the great sir John Fastolf, of Castor, by Yarmouth, in Norfolk; for in his will, dated November 3, 1459, he desired his substance to be disposed of in the best manner, for the pleasure of God, and his soul's health; "and also for the releef, " socour, and helpe of the soules that I am most " oblyged to prey and do preye fore, and for the " soules of John Fastolf, my fadir, dam Mary (the " doghtir of Nicholas Park, Squyer) my modir", &c. and it appears that she was buried in the chapel, or choir,

* There was a third brother, viz. sir Thomas Mortimer, of Attleburgh, who died before 1400, seised of a part of Attleburgh, which is called a manor.

choir, belonging to the chantry of the Holy Cross, by sir Thomas Mortimer, her last husband. By sir Thomas she had three daughters, co-heiresses to sir Robert, their grandfather, viz. Elizabeth Mortimer, the eldest, who married, in her grandfather's lifetime, sir Ralph Bigot, of Stockton, and had her portion assigned her on her marriage, viz. part of this manor, which was now made a separate manor; Berryhall manor, in Ellingham, Ladies manor, in Rockland, &c. for which reason she had nothing more at her grandfather's death: she had three husbands; first, sir Ralph Bigot, knt. who died in 1406; second, Henry Pakenham; and lastly, Thomas Manning, to whom she gave all her estate; he afterwards remarried a daughter of sir Thomas Jenny.

Cecily, the next daughter, first married to sir John de Herling, knt. and afterwards to John Ratcliff, of Attleburgh, esq.

Margery, the third, married sir John Fitz-Ralph, of Great Ellingham, knt. Between the two latter sir Robert Mortimer, their grandfather, divided his estate, on condition that each of them should pay 1000 marks to his feoffees for them to finish Attleburgh college with, and endow it according to his desire, and accordingly, after his death, sir John Herling, and sir John Fitz-Ralph, giving the feoffees security for the money, had the inheritance divided between them in 1402, and settled by fine. Sir John de Herling, knt. had the manors of Stanford, Attleburgh, &c. and the moiety of the advowson of the college chantry at the altar of the Holy Cross, in the church of Attleburgh, the manors of Newenham, and Foxton, in Cambridgeshire, all which were settled on Cecily and her heirs. The manors of Scoulton, &c. with the advowson of the third part of Attleburgh, and the moiety

moiety of the advowson of the college, &c. were settled on sir John Fitz Ralph, and his heirs; and thus the estate of the noble family of the Mortimers was divided.

In 1403 lady Cecily de Herling held this manor, at one fee, of the earl Warren. In 1411 she was married to John Ratcliff, esq. her second husband, and at her death left it to him, and his heirs. This John was son of James Ratcliff, esq. and was the first that advanced that family to the dignity and honor that it afterwards possessed, being a brave champion in war, even from his youth, for which he was so much in the favor of that victorious prince, Henry V. that in the first year of his reign he granted an annuity of 40 marks a year to him, and Cecily his wife, and the longest liver of them, to be received by half yearly payments out of the manor of Tunstead, which belonged to the king's honor, or Duchy of Lancaster, upon special trust that the said John should not be retained, or serve any one in war, but himself only, during his life; and as a further mark of favor, another grant passed the same day, to him only, during his life, of another annuity of 25 marks a year, issuing out of all the lands and demesnes of that duchy in Norfolk, to enable him the better to perform his service, both which annuities were constantly paid him by the receiver of the duchy; and from this time he constantly attended the king in all his wars. He was a squire only at the battle of Shrewsbury, and was knighted by Henry V. upon his landing at *Quies de Caux*, commonly called Kidcaux, where the Seine quietly runs into the sea, and the next day went with his matter to the town of Harfleur, which stands on that river, and besieged it on all sides, and was at the surrender of it; after which the king ordained the duke of Exeter, his uncle, captain and governor of
that

that town, (who established sir John Fastolf his lieutenant there) with 1500 men, (or as some say) 2036 knights, of which the baron of Carew, and sir Hugh Lutterell, were his two counsellors. In 1415 he was in the battle of Agincourt, in that part which was commanded by the duke of Exeter, where he behaved so gallantly, that he was soon after made the king's receiver in his city and dominion of Vernevil, in Normandy, and when the king returned into England, he went with the duke, and staid with him, and sir John Fastolf, at Harfleur, from whence they soon after made a great inroad, with 3000 Englishmen, into Normandy, almost to the city of Roan, and got abundance of riches, and prisoners; but as they returned, the new made constable of France, hoping to win honor in his first enterprize, having with him about 5000 horsemen, encountered them, and a sore conflict ensued, in which the duke lost 300 of his infantry, and was forced to retire into an orchard, which was strongly fenced with thorns, so that the Englishmen kept them off, stayed there all night, and went towards Harfleur in the morning, which the French being advertised of, followed, and overtook them on the sands near Chief de Caux, (or Quies de Caux) and there attacked them, but in the end were quite defeated, and many of them slain by the English, who came safe to Harfleur, to the constable's disgrace. This was called by some the battle of Kidcaux, and by others the battle of Vallemont. Soon after this the constable (to retrieve his lost honor) besieged them in Harfleur, but by the valiant behaviour of the duke, sir John Fastolf, sir John Ratcliff, and others, the town was manfully defended till the king's navy, under the command of the duke of Bedford, came to their assistance, and meeting with the French navy at the mouth of the Seine, engaged, and vanquished it, sunk 500 ships, went up the river, and refreshed the town with victuals
and

and money. The constable hearing the navy was vanquished, raised the siege, and returned to Paris with less glory than he expected. In the year 1417 sir John was at the taking of the castle of Tonque, the city of Caen, the castle of Course, the city of Sees, the town of Falais, and at the great siege of the city of Roan, being then in the king's troop, which, joined with lord Gloucester's, lay before St. Hillary's gate, the rest of the generals encompassing the whole town, which had then (according to historians) 21,000 souls in it, and such resolute commanders and governors among them, as swore to each other never to yield the city as long as they could hold sword in hand, upon which ensued one of the greatest sieges that the history of that age furnishes us with, which is largely recited in Holingshed's history, together with the miserable famine in the city, during the latter part of the siege. " If, (says he) I should rehearse how deerlie
 " dogs, rats, mice, and cats, were sold within the
 " town, and how greedilie they were by the poore
 " people eaten and devoured, the reader might lament their extreme miseries," which passage we cannot but observe, to shew, among other examples, the great fidelity of this historian; for in the old roll before mentioned is this passage, " Furthrymor, as
 " towchyng to the derth of vytayles withyn thys for-
 " seyde cytee, one buschell of whete was worth v.
 " scutys; one lose, j. frank; one dog, j. frank; one
 " kat, ijs. sterl. 1. rat, vjd. sterl. and as towchyng
 " all other vytayles, it was spendit er that we com in
 " to the cytee."

It is plain that sir John Ratcliff, and sir John Fastolf, had done eminent services in this siege, for immediately after the latter was made governor, or captain of Conde-Noreau, and the former of the castle of Fronsak, in Aquitain, and had 1000 marks per annum

num allowed him for the guard thereof. He was elected knight of the garter, by his royal master, in 1420, and died before St. George's feast in that year, (for then his sword, helmet, &c. were offered) and was interred in the choir of this church, leaving sir John Ratcliff, knt. his son and heir, who inherited his father's courage, as well as estate, being well known to the king, and having constantly attended the wars with his father, and was, upon his death, made governor of Fronsak castle, and of the castle of Bourdeaux, in Gascoign, in which posts he behaved himself so well, that Henry VI. in the first year of his reign, retained him to serve him as seneschal, or steward of the Duchy of Aquitain, and assigned him four marks a day for his own salary, and 20 marks a-piece per annum for his 200 archers. In 1425 he was nominated one of the knights companions of the order of the garter, at St. George's feast, at Windsor, by John duke of Bedford, regent of France, the lieutenant, and the companions; sir John Fastolf (whom the lieutenant had first nominated) and he having equal votes, sir John Ratcliff was now chosen, as named by the regent; sir John Fastolf was elected at St. George's feast, the next year. Soon after this he was again retained to serve the king in the French wars, with 100 men at arms, (of which number he himself was to be one) four other knights, the rest squires, besides his 200 archers. In 1432, upon humble remonstrance that there was due to him in arrears, for those and other services, no less than 7029l. he had divers lands, rents, &c. in Wales, assigned him for payment of it. In the 13th of Henry VI. he was sent to Arras, to treat with the dauphin of France, and the year following was lieutenant of Calais when the duke of Burgundy laid siege to that garrison, but he lived not long after; for having exercised himself in arms 28 years, he died in the 16th year

year of this king's reign, and was buried by his ancestors, in the choir of this church, leaving Thomas Ratcliff, and Robert Lathum, his executors, who in the 19th of the king's reign had a grant of all the revenues of Bridgewater, and other ports, to discharge a debt of 7015l. due from the king, for sir John's services as seneschal of Aquitain, and constable of the castle of Fronsak. He died seized of Attleburgh-Mortimers, &c. and in 1452 Katherine his widow was buried here; she was daughter and co-heiress of sir Edward Burnell, knt. and wife of sir John Ferrers, knt. and after of sir John Ratcliff. She left Billingford manor and advowson, held of the king as of the honor of Harfield-Peverell, by the rent of 6s. 6d. per annum, and not in capite, to John Ratcliff, esq. son and heir, who, according to Mr. Le Neve, married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Walter lord Fitz-Walter. He was killed at Towton, near Ferrybridge, in Yorkshire, March 29. 1461, being then lord Fitz-Walter, and left John Ratcliff, esq. his son and heir, nine years old, whose wardship the king granted to Elizabeth his mother, who then dwelt at Attleburgh.

In 1485, the 1st of Henry VII. he was summoned to Parliament as lord Fitz-Walter, and was joined in commission with sir Reginald Bray, knt. for exercising the office of chief justice of all the forests beyond Trent, being at that time steward of the king's household, and had this year a special livery of all his lands. In 1486 he was associated with Jasper duke of Bedford, and others, to exercise the office of high steward of England at the queen's coronation; but in 1493 he, sir Thomas Thwayts, sir Robert Ratcliff, and sir Simon Mundesford, were attainted of treason, for which the two last were beheaded, and the lord Fitz-Walter being pardoned, as to life, was sent to Calais,

Calais, there to be kept in hold, but endeavouring to escape from thence, he was beheaded, and so forfeited his estate to the crown; but yet Robert, his son and heir, found much favor; for in 1505. on the 3d of November, he was restored to his honor, by letters patent of that date; and soon after there were five several fines levied, by which the estate was conveyed to trustees, who settled the whole on the said Robert, and his heirs, except the manors of Southmere, Docking, Billingsford, East Riston, &c. in Norfolk, which were settled on Margaret, his mother, for life, the remainder to him and his heirs. He was made knight of the Bath at the coronation of Henry VIII. having obtained an act of parliament to revoke his father's attainder, after which he became one of the most remarkable men of that age.

In 1512 he attended the king in his expedition to Therovene, and Tournay. In 1522 he led the van of the king's army, sent into France under the command of the earl of Surrey, in which, and other employments, he merited so well, that he was made viscount Fitz-Water, and afterwards earl of Suffex. He was one of the peers that presented the articles to the king, against cardinal Wolfey; one of those nobles that represented in their declaration, sent to pope Clement VII. that unless he complied, and permitted the king to be divorced from queen Catherine, his supremacy would not be long acknowledged in England. This earl obtained a special patent to himself and his heirs to exercise the office of sewer, at dinner-time, at the coronation of all the future kings and queens of this realm, with the fee of 20l. per annum for that service, payable out of the Exchequer, and was afterwards made lord high chamberlain of England for life.

In

In 1541 he obtained a grant of the scite of the abbey of Clive, in Somersetshire, with the revenues belonging to it, and also of the college, or chantry, of Attleburgh, in Norfolk, with all its revenues, and the year following he died at Chelsea.

He was succeeded by Henry Ratcliff, earl of Suffex, viscount Fitz-Walter, lord Egremont and Burnell, his son and heir, who was made knight of the Bath at the coronation of queen Ann Bullein, and in the 1st of Edward VI. had the command of 1600 demi-launces, in the expedition then made into Scotland, in which service being unhorsed, he narrowly escaped with his life. He was in so much favor at that time, that in the act for dissolving the chantries, colleges, free chapels, &c. which was passed this year, he had this clause inserted therein:—“ *Provided alwaies, and be it enacted by the authoritie aforesaid, that this act, ne anie thing therein contained, shall extend to the college or chanterie of Attilbourgh, in the countie of Norfolke, which the said late king Henrie the eight gave to Robert, late erle of Suffex, and to his heires, but that Henrie, now erle of Suffex, sonne and heirre to the said late erle, his heires and assignes, shall and maie, by authoritie of this act, have and enjoy the said college and chanterie, and all manors, lands, tenements, advowsons, tithes, pensions, portions; and other hereditaments thereto belonging or appertaining, anie thing in this act to the contrarie in anie wise notwithstanding.*”

Upon the death of Edward VI. he was the first that appeared on the behalf of queen Mary, for which reason she immediately made him warden, and chief-justice of all the forests south of Trent; he was also knight of the most noble order of the garter. By his will, dated July 27, 1555, he bequeathed his body to be buried in the parish church of Attleburgh, ap-

pointing a tomb to be erected over his grave, notwithstanding which we believe he was not buried here, for dying at sir Henry Sidney's house, in Chanon-Row, Westminster, in 1556, he was buried by his father and mother in the north aisle of the church of St. Lawrence Poultney, in London, and with them removed and buried by Thomas his son, at Boreham, in Essex, the said Thomas desiring in his will that it might be so.

Thomas earl of Suffex, his son and heir, by lady Howard, inherited. He was sent (during his father's life-time) into Germany, by queen Mary, to the emperor Charles V. to treat of a marriage between that queen and prince Philip, the emperor's eldest son; and afterwards into Spain, to Philip himself, for ratifying thereof; the next year was, by them, made lord deputy of Ireland, and at his father's death chief justice of all the forests south of Trent; afterwards knight of the garter, and captain of the band of gentlemen pensioners, and on the death of that queen, was made deputy of Ireland by queen Elizabeth; after that was sent to Vienna, to the emperor Maximilian, with the order of the garter, and after that to the said emperor, to treat of a marriage between queen Elizabeth and Charles duke of Austria; after that employed against the Scots, which service he performed with much bravery and success, and at his return was sworn one of the privy council. He died in 1583, and gave to lady Frances, his widow, all his jewels, habiliments, chains, buttons, ornaments, with or without precious stones, except the five stones, two great table diamonds, one great table ruby, one great pointed diamond, and a great bullose, which were given him, on a sword, by Philip king of Spain, all which sir Henry Ratcliff, knt. his brother and heir, was to have for life, and afterwards were to go from
 heir

heir to heir, as the heir comes: he gave 4000 ounces of gilt plate, and 2000 ounces of white plate to his widow, and all the coaches, horses, and furniture, which she and her women used to ride in, besides their riding horses, and six geldings. It appears that he used to live sometimes at his mansion-house of Bermondesey, in Southwark; sometimes at his noble seat of Newhall, in Boreham parish, in Essex; and sometimes at Wodeham-Walter. He ordered that his executors should keep house at Bermondesey twenty days after his burial, about which they should not expend above 1500*l.* but yet we find that they far exceeded that sum, the whole expences of house-keeping, funeral, jewels, &c. amounting to 8237*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* He left 19,024 ounces of plate.

The tomb set up in Boreham church cost 292*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*

After his death, Frances, his widow, had this manor for life; she was a very religious, liberal, and charitable lady; and by her will, dated in 1588, she ordered her executors to purchase a perpetual annuity of 20*l.* and settle it on a learned and godly preacher, to read two divinity lectures every week in the collegiate church at Westminster, where she was buried, in St. Paul's chapel, April 15, 1589; it was she that established the last college that was ever founded in the university of Cambridge, for she ordered her executors to bestow the sum of 5000*l.* over and besides all her goods unbequeathed, for the erecting a new college in that university, to be called the Lady Frances-Sidney Suffex college, and purchasing lands to be annexed to it, to maintain a master, ten fellows, and twenty scholars, which foundation is now Sidney-College. It seems as if she had in her life time purchased the site of it, and fitted up some part; for in

the account of the charge of the performance of her will, delivered in July, 1589, is this: " Item, The college to be erected, or enlarged, at Cambridge, " v. m. l." in which account it appears that her funeral cost 1368l. her tomb 200l. her benevolence to the poor, to preachers, and prisoners, 100l. her perpetual lecture 200l. the surgeon for searing her corps 20l. and her executors were chargeable with 10,996l. 14s. 9d. to perform all her legacies, of which they received in money by her 3997l. by 4614 oz. of plate 1220l. by 4868 oz. of white, or ungilt plate, 1164l. by jewels 2652l. &c. At her death the manor went to Henry earl of Suffex, brother of Thomas earl of Suffex, late husband of the said Frances, who was knight of the garter, and captain, or governor of the town and Isle of Portsmouth; he died in 1593, leaving Robert earl of Suffex his son and heir, who in the 37th of Elizabeth was sent into Scotland by the queen, to stand proxy, as a godfather, at the christening of prince Henry. In the 39th of that queen he was in the voyage with Robert earl of Suffex to Cadiz; and in 1621 was installed knight of the garter, and often resided here; he had two sons and two daughters, who all died in his life-time, without issue; Henry Ratcliff, lord Fitz-Walter, his eldest son, married Jane, daughter of sir Michael Stanhope, knt. but died a young man.

In the parish register it is thus entered: Robert Ratcliff our lord, the honorable earl of Suffex, knight of the garter, died at London in Sept. and his lady the countess not long before, in the year 1629; he left sir Alexander Ratcliff, knight of the bath, his adopted heir unto this manor, who was descended from sir Alexander Ratcliff, of Ordsall, knt. grandson to Robert Ratcliff, the first earl of Suffex of that name; sir Alexander Ratcliff, who was made knight

knight of the bath at the coronation of Charles I. married Jane, the natural daughter of Robert late earl of Suffex; he left it at his death to John Ratcliff, esq. his eldest son, who sold it to sir Francis Bickley about 1657; he was buried in a vault of his own making, in Mortimer's chapel, in the year 1670, leaving sir Francis Bickley, bart. his son and heir, whose son, sir Francis*, had sir Francis Bickley, bart. who sold the estate to sir James Ash's mother; she left it in trust to Mrs. Mary Windham, for the use of sir James Ash's male issue, but that failing, it came to the late Joseph Windham Ash, esq. who was lord and sole patron, the advowson of the third part being purchased by Mrs. Windham of sir Algernoon Potts. The stile of the court is, "Attleburgh-Hall, with its members." The fines are at the lord's will, and the eldest son is heir; William Windham, esq. is the present lord and patron.

The WARE-POUND, or FROWICK-COURT, is the superior court, all the other manors being held of it; it is always kept on Whitsunday, early in the morning, by a tree, which was on a hill in the street, (but is now cut down) and is commonly called *The Scolding Court*, it being obliged to be over and done with before sun-rise, according to custom, or else the whole rents of the court are forfeited for that year.

In the 38th of queen Elizabeth Robert earl of Suffex paid 16d. for the manors in this town, held of this court, and 2d. for the college lands, which are held of it also, as are several of the capital messuages by the rents of pence, and half-pence only, the
 C 3 whole

* By a second wife he had three sons; Captain John Bickley, the Rev. Mr. Humphry Bickley, rector of the two parts of Attleburgh, and Mr. Joseph Bickley, who is settled in Virginia.

whole being freehold, and the rents amounting in all to 2s. 2d. ob. This always belonged to the hundred of Shropham, as it now does, together with the leets of the whole town, its hamlets, and whatever belong to the manors of this town, lying in Besthorpe, for all which the annual leet fees, joined together, are 6s. 4d. ob. a year.

The lord of the hundred hath also a hundred court belonging to this town, to be kept every three weeks, with full power to end and determine all suits, and pleas of debt, not exceeding 40s. in which any resident of this town is concerned, and power to levy, in as ample a manner as the county court: To him belongs also the market, which is held on Thursday, and was formerly remarkable for the number of fat bullocks and sheep which used to be exposed and sold here every other market day, but now is wholly lost, and the market itself is very near it. There are three fairs kept every year; the first on Maunday Thursday, but by what authority, or to whom it belongs, we know not; the second on Ascension-Day, this belongs to Mortimer's manor, being granted in 1310 to sir Constantine Mortimer; the third belongs to the lord of the hundred, with which it was given to the Albanys, and is kept, according to its institution, on the 15th of August.

In 1656 Robert Wilton, of Wilby, esq. (lord of the hundred) lett unto sir Francis Bickley, (lord of the manor) for twenty-one years, at the rent of 10s. a year, " A weekley, free, and open markt in the
 " towne of Attleburgh, on Thorfsday in every weeke,
 " and alsoe one faire yearly, & every year to be
 " holden there, upon the 15th day of Aug: and
 " also free liberty of picage, & stallage, in and upon
 " the wast grounds in the street, called the Town-
 " street,

“ street, in Attleburgh, from the Signe of the Angell
“ to the signe of the Starre, on the one side of the
“ street; and from the signe of the Griffin to the
“ turning of the wall of the church-yard, over-
“ against the signe of the Starre on the other side of
“ the street; and for the setting up of pennis, &
“ stalls, and for the buyeing, selling, & vending of all
“ manner of provision for food, and for sale of any
“ other commodities whatever, &c. and also all be-
“ nefits, profits, &c. coming or accruing by the
“ said marketts and saires, and of the stalls, pennis,
“ standings, and places there; and also free liberty
“ of using the pound erected upon the wast ground
“ in Attleburgh aforesaid.”

The lord of the hundred hath all felons goods forfeited, assize of bread and ale, a tumbrell, or ducking stool, (which is but lately decayed) waif and stray, free-warren, liberty of the game, fugitives goods, and all forfeitures, besides other privileges, all which were confirmed in the time of queen Elizabeth, when the hundred was in her own hands, as appears by an inquisition taken before Henry Blake, gent. the queen's steward of her liberty, and hundred of Shropham, in a general hundred-court held at *Ketelbrigge*; all which liberties relating to these towns were returned by the queen's mandate, upon inquisition as aforesaid, because the lords of these manors began within twenty years last past to claim and usurp within their several manors the liberty of gaming, and punishing false commoners, and surchargers, and other liberties, upon which the queen brought actions against the several lords, but they acknowledged her liberties, and obtained her discharge.

The GREAT RECTORY MANOR belongs to the rector of the greater part, or the two parts of Attleburgh, and the rector thereof now is, and his predecessors always were lords of it; the present rectory-house, which joins to the south side of the churchyard, is the scite of it, and it hath ten acres of glebe land, the only remaing part of its ancient demesnes, the rest being now held by copy of court roll. The customs are, that the eldest son is heir, and the houses are at the lords will, but the land is a set fine of 2s. an acre.

The LITTLE RECTORY MANOR belongs to the rector of the lesser, or third part of Attleburgh, and the present rector now is, and his predecessors always were lords of it; the scite of it is now down; the close in which it stood contains three acres, and is all that remains of its ancient demesnes. The customs are the same as the Great Rectory Manor.

And now having given our readers an account of the several manors, we shall proceed to the church, which is dedicated in honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, though there is no part of that church which was first built here now standing, but the tower only, and that not so high as it was originally; the antique Gothic arches, which are to be seen in the bell-chamber, shew us its antiquity, and that the bells were never designed to be hung there; it seems to us, that it was first reduced to the collegiate form when the chapels were founded, and the old chancel of the parish church taken down, and its nave converted into a choir, Mortimer's chapel on the south side, and Chaunticler's on the north, making two handsome transepts, and at the foundation of the college it is apparent that the present parish church, viz. the nave, two ailes, and north porch, was begun to be built,

built, and was not finished till some time after. Who was founder of the first church we know not, but the first alteration that was made in it was by sir William de Mortimer, who founded the south chapel for his own interment, and it is highly probable made the nave of the old church into a choir, and new-topped the steeple, because afterwards his foundation service was performed after the collegiate manner; this was finished before 1297, in which year he died. The north chapel was founded afterwards by Thomas Chauncicler, who was buried in it in 1397; and when the college was founded the parish were entirely excluded from the old parish church, and that was appropriated for a choir, for the use of the college only; and in recompence thereof the founders of the college, their friends, and other pious benefactors, built the nave, and two ailes, for the use of the parish only; and so the choir, because it belonged to the college only, was given with it by Henry VIII. to Robert earl of Suffex, who was then lord, and being of a covetous disposition, was so far from sparing the building, that (as the parish register informs us) he not only pulled down and spoiled the chancel, but also pulled up many marble grave-stones of his ancestors, with monuments of brass upon them, and other fair good pavement, and carried and laid them for floors in his hall, kitchen, and larder-house, where they were lying when the account was inserted in the register; and besides this, he got fourteen crosses, and as much town plate as was then worth above 100l. from the church, and by this means the chancel was reduced to ruins, as we now see it.

The two parts, or the greater part, is valued in the king's books at 19l. 8s. 9d. and pays first fruits, and 11. 18s. 10d. ob. yearly tenths. The lesser, or third part,

part, was valued at 8*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* but being sworn of the clear yearly value of 42*l.* 5*s.* only, it is discharged of first fruits and tenths.

The greater part, or the two parts annexed, otherwise called Hamon's Portion, from Hamon de Warren, who was rector of it at its taxation, when Norwich Doomsday-book was compiled, had fir Robert de Tateshale for its patron; the rector had a house and twenty-seven acres of glebe; William de Mortimer was patron for the third part, and its rector had a house also, and twenty-seven acres of glebe.

In 1603 there were 440 communicants, and now there are about 600 inhabitants; it paid 7*l.* to the old tenths, and is now assessed at 199*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* to the land tax.

Gilbert Berkeley, S. T. P. bishop of Bath and Wells, was rector of the lesser part in Henry VIII.'s reign; whether he had the other parts we cannot find, nor yet his institution to this; he was born at Norfolk, consecrated at Lambeth, March 24, 1559, had the temporalities restored July 10, 1560, died Nov. 2, 1581, and is buried at Wells, in Somersetshire. The patronage was then in the family of Gurnay.

After the division of the Mortimer's estate this advowson was allotted to John Fitz-Ralph, as part of the inheritance of Margery Mortimer, his wife; and from that time it passed with the manor of Ellingham-Hall, from Fitz-Ralph to Conyers, from them to the Warners, so to the Gurnays, and Davys, and after to the Potts, who sold it to Mrs. Windham, and William Windham, esq. holds it with the other manors and advowsons.

The

The tower, which stands in the midst of the church, according to the collegiate form, is square, and hath in it a clock and six bells.

In this town are streets called Havercroft, Burgh, Westcar, and a hamlet called Baconsthorpe.

Many persons of note were buried in this church, particularly of the families of Mortimer, and Ratcliff, to whose memory monuments and inscriptions were placed.

Mortimer's chapel, which is on the south side, belongs to Mortimer's manor; and Chaunticler's, or Chancellor's chapel, which is on the north side, belongs to Chaunticler's manor.

Of this town were also the families Chaunticler, Brampton, Berney, &c.

The present nave and ailes were begun by sir Robert Mortimer, founder of the college, about 1378, and continued by his grand-daughters, their husbands, and a great number of other benefactors, as their arms and effigies in the window shew us, it not being perfectly finished till after 1405.

The following arms were in the windows, several of which now remain, the rest being lost, viz. Albany, Clifton, Fitz-Walter, Clare, Ufford, Ratcliff, Wingfield, Herling, Calthorpe, Hetherset, Kerdeston, Denton, Brampton, Moulton, Bacon, of Baconsthorpe, Norwich, Boutetort, the bishopric of Norwich, Brewse, Mortimer, earl of Suffex, quartering Bohun, earl of Northampton.

Over the porch door are the arms of Ratcliff, quartering Mortimer, and Ratcliff impaling, chequy a chief fleury de lis, cut in stone.

In one of the windows was an effigy of one of the Norwich family, kneeling in his court armour, with his wife, and under them his arms, impaling sab. and another coat of Mortimer, impaling Norwich.

In a north aisle window is the effigy of a priest in a blue vestment, kneeling on a broken label; under him lies a man in winding-clothes, at full length, to intimate that William-at-the-Brook, chaplain, whose effigy it is, was a benefactor to the church, glazed that window, and was there interred; under him is this broken inscription:—*[Orate] Pro: anima: Willi: at: ye: Broc: Capellani: qui: hanc: [fenef] tram: construxit.*

The organ, or old rood-loft, is standing, on which are painted the arms of all the bishoprics.

In Mortimer's chapel, against the east wall, is a mural monument much defaced, which was erected for John Rawlyns, rector of all the parts of this church, whose arms, with those of his wife, are on it, 1620.

In the church are mural monuments to some of the family of Bickley, lords here, and others to Norford.

We find only two stones with inscriptions in the nave; one hath the arms of Capt. John Gibbs, of the county of Norfolk, who died October 22, 1695, aged 48, with a panegyric in verse. Mr. le Neve calls him the *famous* captain Gibbs; he was a great gamester,

gamester, and horse-racer, in the time of Charles II. “ He laid a wager of 500l. that he drove his light chaise and four horses up and down the deepest place of the Devil’s Ditch, on Newmarket-heath, which he performed by making a very light chaise, with a jointed perch, and without any pole, to the surprise of all the spectators.”

The following accounts are taken from the old register of this parish, which is a very particular one; it begins in 1552:

In 1559 the town of Attleburgh, viz. Market-street, and Town-street, were burned.

In 1605 Edward Barthelet, esq. was buried Nov. 27, a worthy gentleman, and justice of the peace, counsellor at law, dwelt at the hall, and kept a good house there.

In 1612 Master Glaspole, alias Hamlet, was buried October 26; he was the earl of Suffex’s bailiff, dwelt in the Park-hall, and was the earl’s forester there; he kept a worthy house, as if the park had been his own.

In 1623 a school was erected in the south aisle chapel; the timber for the seats of it was given by the earl of Suffex, and sir William Knevet, and that for the top of the font now made. The town voluntarily allowed 4l. per ann. out of their town lands to the master.

In 1630 a guild was held on Midsummer-Day, at which there were thought to be 2000 people; they could not half sit and dine there, but were constrained to go into the town, and there could not be

be of that sudden meat enough provided for them; it was said they left no bread in town by two o'clock; only beer was plentiful; there was no outrage or disorder of the company; these meetings began in our church with solemn prayers, a sermon, &c.

In 1631 the church was well repaired, and decently embattled.

In 1632 the wooden top of the cross in the churchyard was made by John Forbie, clerk, by the appointment of the bishop of Norwich. The globe was set up to signify the heavens, coloured with blue, with stars and clouds. On the aquator circle, *Aspiremus per mensura Aeterna*. The lower part coloured green, to signify the earth, with trees and flowers on it, *Quid tumultuamur? Peritura possidemus*.

In 1633 the new organs were brought into the church from 'squire Buxton's, of Tibbenham-Cannons, which cost 10l. there, and 10l. more to take them down and set them up here, purchased by the parishioners voluntary gifts; and 9l. a year was voluntarily subscribed for Mr. Lesingham, the organist, of which sir Alexander Ratcliff, lord and patron, allowed 40s. a year, and the rector 40s. &c.

In 1636 the communion-table was placed, &c. as it now stands.

"In 1625, Aug. 11, was buried Mary, wife of Gilbert Green, hostess of the Cock, who knew how to gain more by her trade than any other, and a woman free and kind for any in sickness, or woman in her travail, and child-bed, and for answering for any one's child, and ready to give to any one's marriage."

Philip

Philip Coullier, yeoman, dwelt at Wymondham, died Dec. 24, 1625, worth 100l. per ann. he cloathed every Christmas (long before his death) twenty poor children, from head to foot; he re-built all the houses for the use of the poor that were burned by the fire at Wymondham, and left a gift for ever to cloath and feast so many poor children every Christmas.

The religious concerned in this town had lands in it to the amount of 2l. 8s. 3d. yearly rents, of which the master of the college paid a free rent for land given to his house of 16d. and there was the value of 4s. 10d. a year tithes, which belonged to the priory manor, for all which the prior was taxed at 46s.

The prior of Wymondham was taxed for his temporals here 15s. 4d. and the prior of St. Faith's 15d.

The Terrier informs us, that Mr. Nerford, late rector, founded a free-school, and endowed it with 6l. per ann. in lands, and also gave six two-penny loaves to the poor every Sunday, and tied the Rev. Mr. Beales's estate for it; there are thirty pieces of town lands, besides the College-Close, all which are settled to repair the church, and find it ornaments, for ever; and in the year 1651, we learn from the church-wardens account, it was then in the town's possession, though they were forced to employ some of its produce to contrary uses, viz. "to Richard Lawes for *defacing* the King's-arms 6s." and it cost the town a good deal to repair the seats heads, which were defaced at that time.

The COLLEGE of the HOLY CROSS, otherwise called ATTLEBRUGH' CHANTRY, was founded by sir Robert

bert de Mortimer, who was buried in 1387; he endowed it to the value of 2000 marks; and accordingly Henry IV. in 1405, for 100 marks, paid by the feoffees, granted them licence to build the chantry for five chaplains, one of which was to be master, who should daily officiate in the church of Attleburgh for the souls of sir Robert Mortimer, knt. &c. and to amortise to the said chantry a messuage, and seventy acres of land, four acres of meadow, and two of pasture, in Attleburgh, and the advowson of Great Ellingham, provided there be a vicar sufficiently endowed, and a yearly sum of money given to the poor there.

The four fellows were to obey all lawful commands of their custos, or master. The custos and chaplains to be perpetual, that is, not removed, unless for such causes as would deprive a rector. All of them are obliged to reside in their college, or mansion-house, and live together in commons, as in other colleges; and if any be so old that they cannot serve, or be hindered by continual sickness, yet they shall continue in their place, and be maintained by the college during their life. The master to have 60s. a year stipend, and every brother 40s. The master and brethren to have every year a new cloth suit, or 10s. each. The custos to be chosen by the fellows, and the major part of them may choose any one, whether he be of the college, or no. The custos to have the sole management of all the revenues of the college, both spirituals and temporals, giving an account to the fellows every Michaelmas-Day of all the receipts and expences of the whole year; and upon this the college was built for their mansion-house; it stood on the west side of the street, something lower than the N. W. corner of the church-yard; there are no ruins, a new house being built on
its

its scite, which is still called the college; at the dissolution it was given to Robert earl of Suffex, in 1541, and so became joined to the manor; the advowson of it was in moieties, one belonged to the Fitz-Ralphs, and the other to Cecily Herling, her husbands, and her heirs. Henry VIII. granted licence to John Cleydon, master of the Holy Cross chantry, and the fellows there, to appropriate the greater part of the church of Attleburgh to their college, and also to purchase lands, tenements, or manors, of the value of 20l. per ann. and settle them in mortmain, and the lord Fitz-Walter had licence to settle the said advowson on the college, but it was never done, the dissolution following not many years after. It was endowed with 21l. 16s. 3d. per ann. at its dissolution, according to Dugdale; but among Mr. le Neve's collections we find it valued at 50l. 6s. 4d. ob. q.

In the year 1709 an act passed for continuing an act made in the 7th and 8th years of the reign of his late majesty king William, intituled, "An act for the repairing the highways between Wymondham and Attleburgh, in the county of Norfolk, and for including therein the road leading from Wymondham to Hetherfet, over the common belonging to the said town;" by virtue of which the tollgate on this road was erected; it was an exceeding bad road before the first act.

There is a square stone pillar standing by the road side, thus inscribed:—*This pillar was erected by the order of the sessions of the peace for Norfolk, as a grateful remembrance of the charity of sir Edwin Rich, knt. who freely gave the sum of 200l. towards the repair of the highway between Wymondham and Attleburgh, A. D.*

1675.—This is said to be the first made turnpike road in England; it is now one of the best.

The town of Attleburgh lies on the great post road from London, ninety-three miles and a half, to Norwich, fourteen and a half, and is the first stage from the latter, being fifteen miles from Thetford. The writer of the *English Gazetteer* tells us, “that it was anciently not only a city, but a palace, and the metropolis of the county, and had a collegiate church; it is a considerable town, and has a market once a fortnight, for fat bullocks, sheep, &c. besides its market on Thursday.

In 1755, August 19, the rectories of Attleburgh *Major*, and *Minor*, were consolidated; and in 1773 John Fairfax Francklin was presented by William Windham, esq.

BESTHORPE. This village is called in Doomsday *Befethorp*, and *Baconsthorp*, and now *Besthorp*, or the *Best Village*, from the goodness of its soil, and plenty of wood, as *Spelman* in his *Icenia* observes; it was a rectory appendant to the two manors in this town, and each of them had a turn in its advowson; that which belonged to *Plasset's* manor was given by *William earl of Arundel*, the second of that name, to the monks of *Wymondham*; and the other, which belonged to *Robert de Bautvent's* manor, was released by him at that time to the same monks, and it was appropriated accordingly, before the year 1266; but because the bishop's official was witness to the appropriation, the prior and convent were to be patrons of the vicarage; the vicars were to have the house and lands belonging to the rectory, &c.

At the dissolution the impropriation and advowson came to the crown, and there continued till queen Elizabeth, in the 18th year of her reign, granted the portions of tithes to Richard Brokelsby, to be held at 26s. 8d. yearly rent; and in the 29th year of her reign she granted to Edward Heron, esq. and John Nicholas, gent. all tithes whatever in Besthorpe, and lands, which lately belonged to Wymondham convent, and were *concealed*, and unjustly detained from the crown; and in the 30th year of her reign the advowson of the vicarage, and the impropriation, was granted to the Cleres, and was joined to the manors before 1602, by the Drurys, with which they now continue.

Sir Thomas Downing, chaplain and rector here, built the vicarage house at Besthorpe, and died in 1559. Over the chimney-piece is this:

*Alle you that sitt by thys fire warmyns,
Pray for the Soule of sir John Downyng.*

The temporalities of the prior of Buckenham, in this town, were taxed at 3s. 1d. being lands given by the lords of Buckenham-Castle to the priory.

The lands belonging to the nuns at Marham were granted at the dissolution to sir Nicholas Hare, knt. and Robert Hare, esq.

The prior of Norwich had an annual rent of 12d. The spiritualities, or great tythes belonging to the prior of Wymondham, were taxed at ten marks, and the temporalities at 14s. 4d. There was a manor belonging to the rectory before the appropriation, after which it went with it, and so became joined to the other manors.

In 1285 the prior had free-warren in his demesnes in Besthorpe; and in 1288 he held the 20th part of a fee in Besthorpe, of Munchensy's barony, which was heretofore Aymer de Valence's, earl of Pembroke, and this he joined to the rectory manor.

The prior of the monks of the church of Thetford was taxed at 15s.

The vicarage was valued in the king's books at 5l. 6s. 8d. ob. and being sworn of the clear yearly value of 48l. 15s. 6d. it is discharged of first fruits and tenths.

In 1603 return was made that it had 180 communicants, and was late in the patronage of the crown; but it is now granted to Anthony Drury, the elder, esq.

The town paid 2l. 14s. to the tenths, and is now assessed at 1087l. 11s. 8d.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and the north chapel to the Annunciation of the Holy Virgin.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a most curious monument of black and white marble, with the arms of Drury and Cokain impaled,—*Sir William Drury knt. one of his majesty's justices of the peace, and quorum, and one of the deputy-lieutenants of this county; he married Mary, eldest daughter of William Cokain, of London, esq. by whom he had issue two sons, and three daughters; he died November 8, 1639, aged 42.*

On the north side of the chancel—*Charles Harbord, esq. who died in 1679, aged 84.*

The following inscription is over the door of a vault on the south side of the chancel, which was built for the interment of Robert Nedham, viscount Kilmurrey, in which the Harbords and Shaws have been since interred. Arms are, Nedham's atchievement supported by two roe-bucks, with this motto: *Nunc aut nunquam*. On each side Drury and Cockain impaled; underneath are the arms of Harbord, whose hatchment impales, arg. on a pale gul. three saltys of the field.—*Memoriæ prænobilis domini Roberti Nedham, vicecomitis de Kilmorrai, Carolo vicecomite (in utrumque Carolum Britanniarum monarchas temporibus monarchomachis, fidelissimo) ac Brigetta vicecomitissa superstitute, Gulielmi Drury, equitis aurati & dominæ Mariæ filia prognati: Eximia tam virtute, quam eruditione, nobilitatem germinantis: proceritate, venustate, pulchritudine, ostenti: amoris publici ferreo sæculo magnetis: ingenio præcoci maturæ vitæ spem frustrantis: anno Dom. MDCLXVIII°. ætatis XIII°. Maij XXIX°. sole, comite, et exemplo, ut alibi luceret, occidentis: Anastasin Paschatis diem, qui anno hujus obitus conscio, defuit, æternitate pensaturam præstolantis: hoc monumentum dicavit avia quotidie visitatura. Dum jacet hic tumulto, manet hæc, tumultata dolore.*

A black marble,—*To Maria, wife of Charles Harbord, esq. who died at Besthorpe, Sept. 5, 1666.*

The following arms were to be seen in the windows of this church, but now some of them are lost:—Bush, Pratt, Ormond, Clifton, earl of Arundel, Mowbray, Fitz-Walter, Clare, Ely Bishopric, and Mortimer, which now remains in the chapel of the Annunciation which belongs to Plassing-Hall manor, and is on the north side, and Drury's chapel is on the south, in which Drury impales Kemp. The steeple is square, and hath five bells.

This town was held by Chetelbern, of the castle of Buckenham, in the Confessor's time, and was divided in the Conqueror's; but the sock of the whole still belonged to that castle, as a member of Shropham hundred, the lord of which is paramount, and hath the leet, and all superior jurisdiction at this time. Half of this town, and part of Attleburgh, belonged to Roger Bigot, who held it of the castle, to which it was afterwards re-joined by the marriage of Maud, his daughter, to William de Albany, lord of the castle, and this part was then called Plassey's, and afterwards Plasset, and Plassing-hall manor. The other part, in the Conqueror's days, was given to Alan earl of Richmond, of whom Thurstan held it, and afterwards Robert de Bautvent, or Bavent, from whom it took the name of Bavent's-hall.

PLASSET, or PLASSING-HALL MANOR, belonging to the castle, as aforesaid, passed, as that did, with the co-heiress of Albany, to sir Robert de Tateshale, who in 1286 had a charter of free-warren in his demesne lands, at Plasset, in Besthorpe, and Attleburgh. In 1283 he purchased three messuages, 185 acres of land, and 20s. yearly rent in Besthorpe, of Peter de Thelvetham, and added it to his manor; afterwards it descended to the Bernaks. By Maud, sister and sole heir of William Bernak, it came to sir Ralph de Cromwell, lord of Tateshale, her husband, from whose family it went to the Fitz-Williams, and Knevet's, by moieties, as heirs to Cromwell; and in 1516 one moiety belonged to sir William Knevet, and the other to William Fitz-Williams, of Sprottsburgh, in Yorkshire, esq. as descendents from the aunts, and heirs of Ralph lord Cromwell, of Tateshale; and what is remarkable, the manor was returned to be held of sir William Knevet himself, as heir of Albany, by another deduction of his pedigree, by the yearly service

vice of a pair of gilt spurs, to be paid every midsummer day. In 1517 William Knevet, a younger son of the family, held the whole manor of sir Thomas Knevet; in 1562 it belonged to William Cocket, by purchase from Cressener, and in 1596 to Anthony Drury, in which family all the manors in this town were afterwards united.

In 1497 Maud Willoughby was lady, but it was only a jointure.

The manor assumed its name from its situation, to which it exactly answers. The plashe, or splashes, (as we now call them) are swampy places where the water often stands, and according to this etymology we find that in the time of Edward I. William del Bernak held 10l. rent at Plassy's, and about that time William de Plassy, who assumed his name from the manor, of which he was head tènànt, lived as a farmer on the scite of it, and gave it the name of Plassy-Hall.

BAVENT'S MANOR belonged to sir Robert de Bautvent, of Besthorpe, in the time of Henry III. who gave the moiety of the advowson of the rectory to Wymondham priory, as hath been observed.

In 1369 it was left to be divided between Eleanor and Cecily, sisters and co-heiresses, and soon after it came to John Warner, of Besthorpe, esq. who had no issue; for in the pedigree of Henry Warner, esq. of Wombhill-hall, in Mildenhall, Suffolk, it is thus recorded; " Anno Domini, 1374, Thomas Wheten-
" hale, a younger son of sir James Whetenhale, of
" Cheshire, knt. being of great acquaintance with one
" John Warner, esq. of Besthorpe, in the county of
" Norfolk, who had no issue of his own, nor any re-

“ lated to him of the name; the said John Warner
 “ bequested his estate unto the said Thomas Whe-
 “ tenhale, conditionally, that the said Thomas Whe-
 “ tenhale would adopt himself, whereupon the said
 “ Thomas Whetenhale came into Norfolk, and cal-
 “ led himself Warner.”

The manor was after released to William Drury, of Besthorpe, and his heirs, by Robert Warner, of Norwich, and so it became united to Plasset's, in the Drurys.

PAGE'S MANOR was part of Plasset's, granted off by sir Robert de Tatehale, to Henry Page, of Besthorpe, who was to hold it of him at one fee.

Thomas Spayne afterwards held it, but in the time of Edward IV. it belonged to the Dentons, and went with Felice, daughter and heir of William Denton, of Besthorpe, to Roger Drury, of Halsted, in Suffolk, who married her, and thus this manor came to the Drurys.

BRETtenham's, or BRIDGEHAM's MANOR, was held by the Curzuns, or Cursons, of East Carleton, and Stanfield, of sir Robert de Tatehale, at half a fee. In 1345 Thomas de Hederfet held it, and sold it the same year to Peter vicar of Hockham, and John de Brettenham, from whom it took its present name, which in time was corrupted into Bridgeham's. In 1401 their heirs held it of the lady Cromwell. In 1408 Ralph Campayne, or Chaumpanne, sold it to John Maundevile, by the name of Carson's manor. In 1562 William Cocket, of Besthorpe, esq. had it, and owned it to his death, in 1579, when the manor went to the Drurys, and became united to the rest.

There

There was a part granted off very early from Bavent's manor, which was held at half a fee of the Thorps, as of Ashwell-Thorp manor. This after came to William Cocket, esq. and being joined to Bridgeham's, went with that to the Drurys, who became possessed of all the manors; the impropriation, and advowson.

The whole being thus united in the Drurys, it will be proper just to mention one or two particulars of this family. Anthony Drury, of Besthorpe, esq. was high sheriff of Norfolk in 1619; sir Anthony Drury, of Besthorpe, was knighted in 1603; Anthony Drury, was buried September 15, 1640, leaving these, and Chaunticler's manor, to his two sisters, his co-heiresses; Bridget, first married to Charles Nedham, viscount Kilmurrey, by whom she had issue Robert, also viscount Kilmurrey, who was lord of a moiety, he died in 1668, aged 13 years, and was buried here. Second, Ann, married to Philip Harbord, of Stanninghall, and Besthorpe, esq. by whom she had a son named William, who died young. On September 13, 1687, the said Philip was buried here, and his moiety descended to his three daughters, of whom Sarah, his third daughter, died unmarried, leaving her part to her two sisters; Ann, married to Robert Paston, second son to Robert earl of Yarmouth, who sold his moiety of the moiety to Charles Shaw, esq. second son of sir John Shaw, of Eltham, in Kent, bart. who had married Elizabeth, the other sister, so that he became sole lord of the Harbord's moiety, and of the other also, in right of his mother, who after the death of viscount Kilmurrey married sir John Shaw aforesaid, for her second husband, so that he became sole lord. He died at Besthorpe, April 28, 1716, and was buried there, leaving two sons, and one daughter. Elizabeth, married to King Gould, deputy advocate of
the

the admiralty, who had issue two sons, Charles and Paston. John Shaw, of Besthorpe, esq. captain in the guards, inherited, and died without issue in 1722, and it descended to Charles Shaw, esq. of Besthorpe, his only brother, who married Frances, daughter of Mr. Lightfoot, of Hampshire, who died lately, and is buried here, leaving Elizabeth, his only daughter, sole heiress.

The custom of all the manors are, that the fines are at the will of the lord, and the eldest son is heir.

There are two halls, or manor-houses, in this parish, now distinguished by the names of the Old Hall, (or Plaffing-hall) and the New Hall, which is a good building, erected by the Drurys, as their arms on the outside shew us, and was the seat of the Shaws. In the windows, &c. are the arms of Drury, with 1593 under them, the time we suppose the house was built, and Drury impaling the following arms, Briggs, Hethe, Denston, Kemp, Spelman, Brampton, Garney's, &c. On the chimney piece Drury impales Cockain; Drury and Nedham; Drury and Harbord, Shaw and Harbord.

Sir John Shaw, of Eltham, in Kent, who married, in 1675, Bridget viscountess Kilmurrey, daughter to sir William Drury, of Besthorpe, in Norfolk, was the 755th baronet by creation.

From the parish register we find that, among others buried here, were sir Charles Harbord, of Stanninghall, knt. on June 11, 1679; Henry, son of colonel Philip Harbord, May 6, 1682; Harbord, son of Charles Shaw, esq. September 16, 1697; Charles Nedham, esq. August 16, 1703.

In

In 1759 the Rev. Thomas Hall was presented to this rectory, by Edward Turnour, esq.

BRETTENHAM, is wrote in Doomsday-book Bretham. The manor and advowson was given to the monks of Ely, along with Bridgham, and the rest of the possessions of that abbey, in Norfolk, all which were confirmed by king Edgar, in the year of our Lord 970, but was divided before the Conqueror's time by the abbots, into divers parts, they reservnig the advowson, part of the demesnes, and a few small rents only, to themselves; all which they joined to their manor of Bridgham, with which it was assigned, at the erection of that see, to the bishops thereof, who always presented to this church, as they do at this day; the advowson not being appendant to Bridgham manor, did not pass to the crown at the exchange of that manor.

In 1277 the abbot of St. Alban's had a portion of great and small tythes, taxed at one mark, and so had the prior of Thetford. The rectory was valued at 4l. 12s. 6d. in the king's books, but being sworn of the clear yearly value of 40l. 6s. 8d. a year, it is discharged of first fruits and tenths, and consequently is carable of augmentation. It is a small parish of near 100 inhabitants. In 1603 it had 48 communicants. It paid 55s. to the tenths, and is now assessed at 119l. to the king's tax.

At this town there have been divers Roman coins ploughed up. We have seen a very fair one of Vespasian, thus circumscribed, IMP. CAES. VESPA-TIAN. AUG. COS. VIII. PP. the reverse was a Mercury holding an urn, and S. C. There were also urns found here; we have seen a small one of red earth, that held about half a pint, all which make us
apt

apt to think that this town, and not Brettenham, in Suffolk, might be the *Combretonium* of Antoninus, and the *Conventronum & ad Convecin.* in the Peutegerian tables; and the rather, because we never heard of any Roman antiquities found at the other Brettenham; but whether the name in English implies a town on the Breton, or, in Welsh, a valley, or low place, upon the Breton, we confess we know not; but the situation is in a great valley, or low place, upon that river which runs from Quiddenham-Meer to Thetford, the name of which we have not met with.

The church and parsonage-house were burnt down in 1693; the nave was re-built, but the chancel was not; there is a square tower, and one bell; the nave and south porch are tiled. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew.

The whole at first belonged to the abbot of Ely, by whom it was divided into several parts. The first two parts belonged to John, Waleram's nephew, at the time of the conquest, and had been held by two freemen under the abbot, in the time of the Confessor. The next was held by Eudo the sewer, in the Conqueror's time, and by Turgis in the Confessor's. Lessius claimed it against Eudo, who recovered it from him, and then held it. Another part belonged to Roger Bigot, of whom William de Burneville held it at the survey. The whole was then two miles long, and a mile and quarter broad, and paid 14d. ob. gelt; the lord of the hundred being then (as he is now) lord paramount of this town, and after this there were no less than six manors here, viz. the bishop of Ely's, which was joined to Bridgham, and ever after passed with it, the manor of Catton, or Carleton-Hall, Burneville's manor, the two manors called Rothyng, or Rothyng-Hall, and the manor called Brettenham's.

CATTON,

CATTON, or CARLETON-HALL, belonged to Eudo the sewer, and in 1230 was settled by Richard de Meisy on Richard Fitz-Richard, and was after in a family surnamed de Carleton. William de Carleton held it in 1277, but how long it continued in that family we do not find. The Brettenham's had it in 1314. It seems as if the prior of Thetford was lord of it afterwards, till the dissolution, but whether in trust, or in right of his monastery, we cannot say, but in 1543 the king licensed Nicholas Rookwood, prothonotary of the common pleas, to sell it to sir Ralph Warren, knt. alderman of London, whose son, Richard Warren, of London, esq. settled it on Elizabeth his wife, in jointure, who, after his death, married lord Knevet; the reversion, after her death, came to sir Oliver Cromwell, in right of Joan, his mother, heiress of Richard Warren; he sold the reversion to sir Bassingbourne Gaudy, who purchased lady Knevet's right; and in 1606 Framlingham Gaudy, esq. sold it to Thomas Wright, of Kilverstone, esq. in whose family it remained till it was sold by Thomas Wright, of Kilverstone, esq. to Mr. George Proctor.

BURNVILLE'S MANOR was held of Roger Bigot, by William de Burneville, whose daughter Avice gave it to the prior of the monks of Thetford, and it was confirmed to them by Henry II. The prior joined it to his manor of Rothyng-Hall, from which it never was separated.

BRETTEHAM'S MANOR belonged to Eudo the sewer, and in 1198 to Richard de Brettenham, of Clare honor, at half a fee. In 1297 William de Brettenham, and John de Brockdish, had it. In 1299 the lady Sarah Le Noreise held it, and half Brettenham's part was settled on Rushworth college, and John de Brockdish's part was divided into several parcels, all
of

of which were purchased, some by the master of Rushworth college, and some by the prior of Thetford, and added to their manors. The other part, which was not settled on Rushworth, was held by William de Brettenham, and passed to the monks at Thetford, along with their manor of Rothyng-Hall.

ROTHYNG-HALL, or RUTTEN-HALL, was the capital manor, and was owned by John, Waleram's nephew, at the conquest, and in the time of Richard I. by Alexander de Rohinges, Roynge, or Rothyng, who in the time of Henry III. was said to have held it at half a fee, of Margery de Riparijs, who held it of the earl of Arundel, as of his hundred of Shropham, belonging to his castle of Buckenham, and the earl of the king in chief.

In 1314 Alexander de Rothyng, William de Brettenham, the prior of Thetford, and the master of Rushworth, were lords of the manors in this town. It was this Alexander that divided the manor into many parts, by selling half a fee held of the honor of Clare to Robert Baynard, &c. In 1345 Henry de Rothyng held the other part, which he divided into two manors, and sold one to the Herlings, whose heiress gave it to Rushworth college, and this was that Rothyng-hall manor that belonged to the college, and in 1374 he sold the other part to Robert de Batisforth, &c. which was after conveyed to the prior of Thetford, who was taxed for the first part at 16s. and for this at one mark; and these constituted that manor called Rothyng's, alias Rothyng-hall, to which the prior joined his manor of Burnville. In 1413 the master of Rushworth college, &c. released to the prior of St Mary, at Thetford, a yearly rent of 6d. paid them by the prior, out of lands in Brettenham, and thus there were two manors called Rothyng-hall, to
the

the dissolution, and then they both came to the earl of Surrey, in 1542. who re-united them, and in 1556 Thomas duke of Norfolk held it in capite of the queen. In 1572 it belonged to the earl of Surrey, and in 1583 Philip earl of Arundel sold it to Thomas Lovell, esq. In 1662 sir Francis Lovell, knt. and William Lovell, esq. sold it to Thomas Wright, of Kilverstone, esq. in whose family it continued, till Thomas Wright, of Kilverstone, esq. sold it to Mr. George Proctor, of Thetford.

In 1758 the Rev. John Warren was presented to this rectory, by the lord bishop of Ely.

BRIDGHAM was so called from the bridge which was the passage to Roudham-cross, and was a remarkable and much frequented way for all pilgrims that travelled from Suffolk, and other parts, to our lady of Walsingham. This town was given by Ethelwold bishop of Winchester, and confirmed by Edward the Confessor, to the monks of Ely, in whose hands it continued till the erection of the see there, and then it became part of the demesnes of the bishopric. In the Confessor's and Conqueror's surveys it appears that it belonged to St. Audrey, and was then two miles long, three quarters of a mile broad, and paid 12d. gelt; that the priest, or rector, belonging to the manor, held land of 2s. per annum value, as belonging to his church, but could not sell it: there was also a socman that held half a carucate of land, whom Roger Bigot claimed as one of his freemen, but the abbot disseised him, and then held it. There were lands in Brettenham and Roudham that belonged to this manor.

In 1229 the bishop had a gallows, pillory, view of frankpledge, cognizance of bushels, gallons, and other measures,

measures, and liberty to hold plea of all things, which the sheriff might, with writ or without. The advowson belonged to the bishop, but the nuns of Ponteverdard, in Normandy, had a yearly pension of ten marks out of this church by the gift of bishop Eustace.

The several heaths then called Longhill, Southfrith, Micklehill, Stapelfrith, Ringmeskele, and Waterdele-frith, containing 260 acres, were to be fed by the whole town only, but none could dig, cut heath, &c. but the bishop; but in Bukesdelescote-Bury, Heroldescote, Perngate, (all which contain 155 acres) the whole town not only fed, but might dig, cut turf, &c. but not to sell. There was also a marsh between Brettenham and Bridgham, and another marsh called Est-Euthe, in both which the whole town might feed, dig, cut turf, fish, &c. except in the lord's separate fishery, which is between West-Mill and Town-Mill, half a mile long. The tenants owe their suit to Town-Mill, and none to West-Mill. Many other suits and services are mentioned, as then existing. It continued in the bishopric of Ely till by act of parliament, in the first year of queen Elizabeth, it was settled by way of exchange, among the rest of the bishop's manors in this county, on the crown, at which time it was under a lease, made in 1546 by the bishop, for 60 years, at 39l. per annum, to William Drury, of Besthorpe. This was assigned by Dorothy, late wife of William Drury, to William Brampton, of Bridgham, esq. from whom Thomas Brampton, of Kenton, in Suffolk, had it, who possessed it in 1573, and lived in the hall, which he repaired, and glazed the windows with his own arms, impaling Waxton; also Brampton impales Leventhorp. These arms were taken down by Mr. Robert Haylet, at whose sale the Rev. Mr. Blomfield bought them. The remainder of this lease being bought in by Bassingbourne Gaudy, esq.

the

the queen in 1594 lett it to him for thirty years, to commence at the end of the said term, at 29l. rent, the advowsons of Bridgham and Brettenham being excepted; and from this time it continued in the Gaudys, as lessees to the crown, till the 6th of June, 1609. and then the king granted it to Framlingham Gaudy, esq. and his heirs, in fee; in which family it continued till sir Bassingbourne Gaudy sold it to Thomas Wright, esq. of East Harling. The fines are at the lord's will, the eldest son is heir, and the quit-rents are 13l. 14s. 1d. ob. a year.

HACKFORD'S MANOR was originally part of the manor of Hackford, in West Harling, that extended hither, and passed with that till it was released to Henry de Elmham, and Elizabeth, his wife, who was one of the daughters and heiresses of sir William de Hackford.

In 1485 William Tymperley had the custody of this manor, &c. for twenty years, paying 43s. 4d. per ann. and maintaining the houses and fences.

In 1516 John Harewell, and others, had it settled on them by Robert Fuller; and in 1550 sir Thomas Lovell, of East Harling had it, in which family it continued, and was joined to the other manor after that was purchased, and so remains. There were three other parcels of land in Bridgham added to this manor by different purchases.

The rectory was appendant to the manor till it came to the crown, and was excepted when the manor was granted from it, and the bishop of Ely always presented till the exchange, and the crown ever since.

The rectory of Bridgham, alias Brigham, is valued in the king's books at 11l. 1s. ob. and pays 1l. 2s. 3q. yearly tenths; 1s. synodals, and 7s. 7d. ob. yearly procurations. though it paid none before the time of Henry VIII.

At the time of Norwich Doomsday the rector had a house and fifty acres of land; and now he hath a house by the north corner of the church-yard, but there remains but thirty-nine acres and an half of glebe.

In 1603 here were 128 communicants, and now (1740) there are but thirty houses, and 180 inhabitants; it paid 3l. 6s. 8d. to the tenths, and is now assessed at 403l. 10s. to the land tax.

In 1411 Hugh Stoppusly had licence in mortmain to amortise a messuage, lands, &c. which were held of the king, as of his Duchy of Lancaster, to the prior and convent of monks, at Thetford, on condition that the king should have 50s. at every resignation, vacation, or death of a prior. This was part of the prior's manor in Brettenham, that extended hither.

The church hath a nave, north porch, and chancel, thatched; it hath no steeple, but there are two bells, which hang in a house in the church-yard. In the windows, and on the font, are the arms of the bishopric of Ely. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

John Watson, of this town, was at the charge of seating the church.

From the register, which begins in 1558, it appears that many of the Drurys, Goldwells, Bramptons, Grigsons,

Grigsons, Buxtons, Lovells, Bells, Chamberlains, Bedingfields, &c. were baptized and buried here.

In 1756 the Rev. James Thorn was presented to this rectory by George II.

BUCKENHAM, NEW. This town had its rise out of Old Buckenham when William de Albany founded the castle, and procured the land of the bishop of Norwich to build it on, and to make his burgh, which then took the name of New Buckenham, to distinguish it from Old Buckenham, which then had that addition for the same reason. He, or his successors, very early got it to be a burgh, with the following privileges, which were allowed in 1285, viz. view of frank-pledge, assise of bread and ale, a gallows, and a market every Saturday, with the market-court, or burgage, then worth 5s. per ann. and kept before the capital steward every Saturday, who was judge of all weights and measures, and every thing belonging to the market, and of all debts contracted or acknowledged in the market, or precinct of the burgh, and of all such debts under that sum in which any resident of the burgh was concerned, and had power to fine and levy, as amply as the sheriff in the hundred-court; and also a fair in the said burgh every St. Martin's day, with a court thereto belonging, called the War-pound court†, the

E 2 rents

† This was appendant to Shropham hundred, and now belongs to it. In 1665 Robert Wilton, esq. then lord, held his court, called the War-pound Court, at New Buckenham, upon St. Martin's day, the rents being due in the morning of St. Martin the Bishop, which are an half-penny, and no more, for each rent, for divers freehold tenements lying all over the hundred, the total of which amounts to but 8d. ob.

rents being due and payable that morning; and also liberty of free-warren in the demesnes and manors of Buckenham-castle, in the Buckenhams, Besthorpe, and Attleburgh; also a prison for all offenders in the burgh, in the toll-house ‡ there.

The whole of this town belonged to the castle, and passed as that did till Shropham hundred was sold from it, and afterwards forfeited to the crown, and the War-pound court with it, and then that was in the Lovells, and the market-court, or burgage, in the Knevets.

In 1572 Thomas Lovell, esq. had one manor, and Thomas Knevet, esq. the other; the War-pound court went with the hundred, and still remains with it; the market-court, or burgage, was sold by the Knevets. It afterwards belonged to Eldred, and Verdon; and after that was settled on feoffees, for the use of the curate, and by virtue thereof the high-bailiff receives the profits.

Here

‡ Placita Corone, Coram, &c. 1285, Robert Ganel, of Buckenham, and Richard, son of William de Buckenham, fought in New Buckenham, and Robert gave Richard a blow with a staff on the head, so that he died the third day after; upon which he was seized, and carried to the court of Robert de Tateshale, at Buckenham-castle, who did not commit him to custody in the castle, but had him delivered to Nigell, son of William de Buckenham, his chief steward, (or high bailiff, as they are now called) who imprisoned him in the toll-house there. The chief steward was elected by the lord of the castle for a long time, till some of them gave liberty to the inhabitants to elect their high bailiff yearly, which they do to this day.

Here were many lands, rents, and tenements, which belonged to the priory, all which were seized by the crown, and granted to divers persons, as the Lovells, Knevelts, &c.

In 1609 John Eldred, esq. and John Verdon, gent. had a grant of the Outfoken* MANOR of the PRIORY, now called Priory Manor, (the Knevelts reserving to themselves the Infoken of that manor, or all that part of it which is now called the Priory Manor, and goes with the Great Manor, and lies in Old Buckenham, which is the reason that there are two manors called the priory at this time) together with the market-court, or burgage, all which the Knevelts were licensed to sell.

E 3d ed. vol. 30. abt. The

* The Out-Soken, at that time, contained the following annual Rents, viz. from lands in the park 6s. 8d. from lands and shops in Bokenham-Nova 3s. 6d. from lands in Attleburgh 4d. from the manor of Cratefield, late the earl of Suffex's, called Cratefield manor, now in the tenure of Simon Smith, 3l. 1s. 7d. ob. from Reymerston a free rent of 11s. for those lands in the tenure of Ant. Thwaites, and for the rents, and tithes of the lands in Attleburgh, 6s. 6d. from a tenement and void piece of ground belonging to William Watts, esq. 13s. 4d. from Toppe's land in Buckenham, 13s. 4d. from lands in Burston, Tibbenham, and Giffing, 33s. 6d. ob. from the manor of Snettisham, and the scite of the manor, called Hawkins. there, 11l. 12s. 8d. from the manor of Walpole, in Norfolk, 43l. 5s. 11d. 1q. (we suppose the rent of Snettisham, and Walpole, was sold off before it was settled on the inhabitants) together with the profits of the market-court, or burgage, of New Buckenham, valued at 5s. per ann. and these were feoffees of this priory manor (Out-Soken) viz. Thomas Kendall, gent. John Gooch, gent. Thomas Colman, gent. William Kendall, gent. and Robert Murton.

The temporal possessions of the prior of New Buckenham, in 1428, were taxed at 34s. 3d.

In 1603 there were 220 communicants; and in Blomfield's time 400 inhabitants. It paid clear to every tenth 4l. 3s. and is now assessed at 558l. 13s. 4d. to the land-tax; it is a compact burgh, of small bounds, having a Saturday market (which of late years is much decayed) and an annual fair on St. Martin's day, according to the grants before mentioned; at first it had but few inhabitants to what it hath at present, as is evident from the chapel of St. Mary, which was then their only place for service, and no large one, but as it increased, sir Robert de Tateshale, lord of the castle, who died in 1248, founded a church, dedicated to St. Martin, on the north side of the burgh, where it now stands, and gave it to the priory, the sacrist of which was to the dissolution the parish priest; he had a certain salary* allowed him by the inhabitants, for which the prior was taxed at 20s. and other houses, or lands, given to him as sacrist, or serving chaplain, for which he was taxed at 13s. and after this was founded the chapel of St. Mary continued to be served as formerly, by a custos and brethren, at the prior's appointment, who dwelt in their apartment at its west end. The present church was built at divers times, the nave and chancel being the only (if any) remaining parts of the first building. The north aisle was built about 1479, by the contribution of several great men, some of whose arms still remain in the windows, and of such other persons as pleased to be benefactors. The south aisle, porch, and tower, were begun soon after, by that sir John Knevet who

* This is now gathered for the minister, and is 3d. in every pound, according to the rent of all the houses in the parish.

who married Clifton's heiress, and was finished by his grandson, sir William Knevet, as the arms in the windows, and on the tower, plainly demonstrate.

This church is a donative, the minister being chosen by the majority of the votes of all the residents in the parish that pay to the minister's rate, and after such choice so made, and entered by the churchwardens in the town-book, he is to have a nomination under their hands to the bishop, in order for a licence, which being obtained, unless that be recalled, it is a cure for life.

There is a convenient house, garden, and out-houses, for the minister's dwelling, who hath an estate in Suffolk, and part of the George Inn, in New Buckenham, the Priory Manor, and the rate of 3d. in the pound, &c. settled for his maintenance.

The nave is leaded, having a neat square tower, with a clock and five bells in it, joined to the west end, on which the following arms are carved in freestone, over the west door, viz. William de Bohun, earl of Northampton; Humphrey de Bohun, his son and heir; Stafford; Holland, viz. France and England quartered, in a bordure; Lynnes; Knevet and Cailly quartered; Knevet quartered with Pally, a bordure charged with Roundells; Albany; Knevet and Clifton quartered; Knevet and Heveningham quartered; Knevet and Clifton, with a canton.

The north aisle is leaded, and hath a chantry parted from the rest, with handsome carved screens.

This chapel belonged to St. Mary's guild, and was made when the aisle was built, as the arms of Cromwell, Tatehale, Mortimer, &c. plainly shew us, they

being in the windows of the aisle as benefactors, together with De-la-Pole, quartering arg. a chief gul. over all a lion ramp. or. Howard and Brotherton quartered; Vere and Howard quartered; Clifton and Cailly quartered.—There are also shields of various arms, viz. Mortimer, Courtney, the arms of the priory, Tatehale, De-la-Pole, Bardolph, Cailly, Fitz-Walter, &c.

The chancel is tiled; on the north side is an in-arched monument, in which is an altar-tomb: the arms, inscription, and effigy of a woman, with a label from her mouth, are all lost. This is the tomb of sir Thomas Knevet, of Buckenham Castle, and Catherine, his wife, daughter to the earl of Derby.

On a flat stone are the arms of Knevet, quartering Clifton, impaling Grey, quartered with Hastings, counter-quartering Valence, with a crescent for difference:—*To Alicia, lady of sir William Knevet, who died April 4, 1474.*

Several inscriptions are lost, the brasses being reaved.

There are many old stones without inscriptions, under which divers of the family of the Knevets lie buried; “an ancient house (saith Cambden) ever since sir John Knevet was lord chancellor of England, under Edward III. and also honorably allied by great marriages; for over and besides these of Buckenham, now baronets, from hence sprung those right worshipful knights, sir Thomas Knevet, lord Knevet, sir Henry Knevet, of Wiltshire, sir Thomas Knevet, of Ashwelthorpe, and others.”

Here are also mural and flat stones to the memory of Collet, Kendall, Barber, Warne, Wade, Crowe, &c.

The windows of the south aisle were beautifully adorned with several arms, inscriptions, and effigies, several of which are broken, though there are some remaining whole.

In the east window of the chapel, at the upper end of the aisle, were the effigies of its founder, and his three wives, viz. first, Alice Grey, of Ruthyn; second, Joan, daughter of Humphry Stafford, duke of Buckingham; and third, Joan, daughter of Thomas Courtney, relict of sir Roger Clifford; all which, with sir William Knevet, their husband, are buried in the chancel.

The following arms are in the windows:—Knevet; Stafford; Wingfield; Jenney, impaled with Wedley, or Wederup; Knevet, Cailly, and Clifton, quartered; Grey; Hastings, quartering Valence; Humphry earl of Stafford; Bohun earl of Northampton; Courtney; Beauford earl of Somerset, and Bohun earl of Northampton, impaled; Clifton; Albany; Fitz-Alan; Tateshale; Cailly and Tateshale quartered, &c.

In the east window of the aisle these arms remain: Knevet, quartering Cailly; Grey, quartering Hastings, counter-quartering Valence; Holland, England, and France, quartered, in a bordure, arg. quartering the earl of Northampton; Wyngfield, mixed with Bohun and Stafford; Courtney, quartering per bend, az. and or. a lion ramp. counter-changed, impaling France and England in a bordure, gobone arg. & az. Clifton, quartering Albany; Cailly, quartering Tateshale.

In

In 1774 the Rev. John France was presented to the curacy of Buckenham St. Martin's, nominated by the inhabitants.

BUCKENHAM, OLD, received its name from the number of Bucks with which the woods here formerly abounded, Bucham, Buckham, and Buckenham, being plainly the village of bucks, and not of beech-trees, as Mr. Camden imagined, there being none of them in this county, as sir Henry Spelman rightly observes, and the additional title of Old was afterwards added, to distinguish it from New Buckenham, which was taken out of it; it is wrote Bucham in Doomsday-book.

Ralph Gauder, earl of Norfolk, owned the whole town (except the carucate which belonged to Bury abbey) in the Confessor's time. In the Conqueror's time it was worth 6l. 13s. 4d. and two sextaries of honey, and when all was joined, it was risen to 32l. 13s. 4d. and 20s. as a present, or gift; it was two miles long, and as much broad, and paid 19d. gelt, or tax, out of every 20s. raised on the hundred. This earl fled the realm, and so forfeited all his estate to the Conqueror, who owned it at the survey, when it was one of his manors that he intrusted earl Godric with the management of. At this time there were only two parishes, viz. All Saints, and St. Andrew's, and a castle which stood just by the abbey. The land on which New Buckenham was after built, was that part of St. Andrew's parish which belonged to the bishop of Thetford's manor of Eccles, and was called Bishop's-Haugh, the tithes of which now are, and always were paid to the rector of Eccles, the land belonging to that manor originally, and the bishop granting them to the domestic chaplain of his palace

palace at Eccles, to whom he generally gave that rectory.

The Conqueror gave the castle and manor, and all that belonged to earl Ralph, to William de Albany (Albini, Albigny, de Albenio) who came into England with him, together with Wymondham, Snettisham, and Kenninghall, to be held by the service of being butler to the kings of England on the day of their coronation, for which reason he was always stiled *Pincerna Regis*, or the king's butler; he founded Wymondam abbey, where he was buried before the high altar, by Maud, his wife, daughter of Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, with whom he had ten knights fees in Norfolk, of earl Roger's gift; he was son of Roger de Albini, by Amy de Molbray, his wife, and brother to that famous Nigell de Albini, whose posterity assumed that name of Mowbray, or Molbray, from that of his mother.

William, his eldest son, succeeded him, he was called *William with the strong hand*, because, among other valiant exploits, he slew a fierce lion. The occasion was thus, as Mr. Dugdale relates: "It happened that the queen of France, being then a widow, and a very beautiful woman, became much in love with a knight of that country, who was a comely person, and in the flower of his youth; and because she thought that no man excelled him in valor, she caused a tournament to be proclaimed throughout her dominions, promising a reward to those who should exercise themselves therein, according to their respective merits; and concluding, that if the person whom she so well affected should act his part better than others in those military exercises, she might marry him without any dishonor to herself.

" Hereupon

“ Hereupon divers gallant men from foreign parts
“ hasting to Paris, among others came this William
“ de Albini, bravely accoutred, and in the tourna-
“ ment excelled all others, overcoming many, and
“ wounding one mortally with his launce; which
“ being observed by the queen, she became exceed-
“ ingly enamoured of him, and forthwith invited
“ him to a costly banquet, and afterwards bestowing
“ certain jewels upon him, offered him marriage;
“ but having plighted his troth to the queen of Eng-
“ land, then a widow, he refused her: whereat she
“ grew so discontented, that she consulted with her
“ maids how she might take away his life; and in
“ pursuance of that design enticed him into a gar-
“ den, where there was a secret cave, and in it a
“ fierce lion, into which she descended by divers
“ steps, under colour of shewing him the beast.
“ And when she told him of his fierceness, he an-
“ swered, that it was a womanish, and not a manly
“ quality to be afraid thereof; but having him there,
“ by the advantage of a folding door, thrust him in
“ to the lion. Being therefore in this danger, he
“ rolled his mantle about his arm, and putting his
“ hand into the mouth of the beast, pulled out his
“ tongue by the root; which done, he followed the
“ queen to her palace, and gave it to one of her
“ maids to present to her.

“ Returning therefore into England, with the
“ fame of this glorious exploit, he was forthwith ad-
“ vanced to the earldom of Arundel, and for his
“ arms had the lion given him; nor was it long after
“ that the queen of England accepted him for her
“ husband, whose name was Adeliza, (or Alice) wi-
“ dow of Henry I. and daughter to Godfrey duke of
“ Lorrain; which Adeliza had the castle of Arundel,
“ and

and county, in dower from that king". In the beginning of the reign of Henry II. he not only obtained the castle, and honor of Arundel, to himself and his heirs, but also a confirmation of the earldom of Suffex, granted to him by the third penny of the pleas of that county, which in ancient times was the usual way of investing such great men in the possession of any earldom, after those ceremonies of girding with the sword, and putting on the robes were performed, which have ever, till of late, been thought essential to their creation.

In the time of king Stephen he founded the abbey here, and built the present castle, as you may see in the accounts of them, and dying in 1176, was buried by his father, at Wymondham.

Robert de Tatehale, in right of Mabel his wife, who was the eldest sister of Hugh de Albany, earl of Arundel and Suffex, had the castle and manors of Buckenham, Wymondham, &c. for their capital seat.

John Fitz-Alan, and Isabel his wife, who was fourth sister, had Arundel castle, manor, &c. for their capital seat.

Roger de Somery, who married Nicholea, the third sister, had Barwe, in Leicestershire, &c. for their chief seat:

Roger

* Our readers, we hope, will hold us excusable in giving them this *wonderful* story, but a bare narration of local history is rather dull to many, if not accompanied with something of the *marvellous*. Instruction is best conveyed *with* the idea of entertainment.

Roger de Montealt, who married Cecily, the second sister, had the castle of Rising, with the manors of Kenninghall, Snettisham, &c. for their principal seat, together with the hundred of Smithdon, and the fourth part of the Tollbooth at Lynn, which was now divided into four parts, so that a fourth part attended each of the inheritances; and thus the castle and manor came to sir Robert de Tateshale, who made it his principal seat. He was descended from Eudo, who with Pinco, his sworn brother in war, (though no other way related) came into England with duke William, and merited so well from him in that service, that in recompence thereof he gave them the lordship of Tateshale, &c. in Lincolnshire, to be equally shared between them.

Sir Robert de Tateshale, his father, was so great a benefactor to Buckenham priory, that the canons of that house altered their common seal, and put in his arms along with their founder's. Among other things, he gave the church of St. Martin, in New Buckenham, with the advowson of the church of Gunneby, for a yearly pittance*. He left sir Robert de Tateshale, who married Mabel aforesaid, his son and heir, who granted to the canons here liberty of foldage for 200 sheep in Attleburgh, with free pasturage for them there, and 53 acres of arable land in Buckenham, besides other gifts. In Lovell's book, in the Exchequer, he is found to hold this castle and manor by the service of the Botelry.

Sir

* PITTANCES were small portions at meals, added to the common allowance of the monks, and in most religious houses the care of them belonged to an officer for that purpose, called *Pittanciarus*.

Sir Robert de Tateshale, his grandson, in 1285, had view of frankpledge, free-warren, gallows, and a Saturday market, assize of bread, and ale, and a fair yearly on St. Martin's day, and another market every Thursday in Attleburgh, belonging to his manor of Buckenham castle, and Plassing-hall, in Besthorpe.

In an old roll, about this time, it appears that there were many manors held by knight's service of this castle by scutage, or in socage. Sir Robert died in 1297, leaving his estate to sir Robert his son and heir, whose son, Robert de Tateshale, died a minor, without issue, in 1305, leaving his inheritance to be divided among his three aunts, or their heirs. Emma, or Amy, married sir Osbert de Cailly, knt. Joan, sir Robert de Driby, knt. and Isabel, sir John de Orreby, knt. among whom the estate was divided.

Thomas de Cailly, son of sir Osbert, had livery of his mother's inheritance in 1306, when he had Buckenham-castle, and the advowson of the priory there, the fourth part of the manor, and the half parts of other manors thereto belonging, and a part of several manors in Norfolk. He died in 1316, leaving Adam, son of sir Roger de Clifton, by Margaret, his only sister, his heir.

Joan de Driby had the castle of Tateshale, &c. and the eighth part of Buckenham manor, &c. and the rent of two sparrows, or spar-hawks, in Old and New Buckenham, &c. all which this Joan, then widow of Robert de Driby, left to William Bernak, who died about 1340, seised of the third part of Wymondham, and Buckenham manors, and the third part of Plassing-hall, or Plasset's, in Attleburgh, and Besthorpe.

John de Orreby, with Ifabel his wife, had, among others, the manor of Tibbenham, in Norfolk, (except the third part of the park, which Thomas de Cailly held, in part of his portion) and the eighth part of Buckenham manor, in recompence of the eighth part of the parks of Buckenham, which was assigned to the said Thomas, and the eighth part of the lands in Attleburgh, viz. 10 messuages, &c. in Attleburgh, Buckenham, Besthorpe, Ellingham, and Tibbenham. Philip de Orreby was their son and heir, whose grandson, John de Orreby, died in 1342. Joan de Orreby, his sole daughter and heiress, married first to sir Henry Percy, who died in 1367, and after to sir Constantine Clifton; she had one daughter, Mary Percy, her sole heiress, who was married to sir John Roos, of Hamlake, knt. but died, without issue, before her mother.

In 1360 sir Ralph de Cromwell, knt, in right of Maud Bernak, his wife, became lord of the manors of Hetherfet, Plaffinghall, in Besthorpe, Denton, &c. all which (except Hetherfet) were held of the king in capite, as parcel of the barony of Tatehale; he had his parts of Buckenham, Wymondham, and Shropham hundred, for which he did homage to the king, and had livery thereof.

In 1394 a writ was directed to John Knevet, escheator of Norfolk, to divide the lands.

Sir Ralph died in 1398, and Ralph (afterwards lord Cromwell) was his grandson, and heir. He was afterwards lord Treasurer, but having no issue, at his death, in 1455, his three aunts became his heirs, viz. Elizabeth, married to sir John Clifton, Hawise, to Thomas lord Bardolph, and Maud, to John Fitz-Williams, and they inherited his whole estate.

We

We must now return to the Cliftons, who all along held the castle, and the best part of the manor, from the year 1316 to the year 1490, when sir Robert Clifton, knt. died without issue male, leaving his estate to sir William Knevet, knt. who married Elizabeth, sister, and at length heiress to sir John Clifton, the last male of the elder branch.

Sir John Clifton, knt. of Buckenham-castle, in 1373, had livery of all his lands. He was summoned to parliament from 1375 to 1388, when he died at Rhodes, leaving Constantine his son and heir, who married Elizabeth, one of the co-heiresses of Ralph lord Cromwell, by which match that part of Buckenham, &c. which she had for her share, united again.

His grandson, sir John Clifton, knt. who died in 1447, gave to the high altar of the church of St. Martin, at New Buckenham, 40s. ten marks, to repair the church, and ten marks to the guild of the Blessed Virgin, in that church, and many other benefactions. He had only one daughter, viz. Margaret Clifton, who married sir Andrew Ogard, of Buckenham-castle, knt. Sir Andrew died in 1454, without issue, and the whole estate reverted to Elizabeth, aunt to the said Margaret, who married sir John Knevet, knt. but yet in 1459 Alice, first widow of sir Andrew Ogard, knt. then of sir Hugh Cokeffey, of Cokeffey, in Worcester-shire, held the castle and manors to her death, in 1460.

John Fitz-Williams, lord of Elmly, and Spotsburgh, in Yorkshire, married Maud, one of the co-heiresses of Ralph lord Cromwell, and in her right had a third part of the third part of the manor.

William Fitz-Williams, esq. of Elmly, dying without issue in 1516, left his two aunts his heirs; Margaret, married to Thomas Southill, of Southill-Hall, in Yorkshire, and Dorothy, to sir William Crompton, of Spotsburgh, knt. but as the chief, if not all this part, was united to the other, by different purchases, it will be needless to trace their descendents any further, the whole being united in the Knevetts.

Sir John Knevet, knt. of Buckenham-castle, married Elizabeth, sister, and at length heiress of sir John Clifton, knt. and in 1461 held the castle and manors of Old and New Buckenham. He was grandson to sir John Knevet, knt. lord chancellor of England in 1371. He left sir John Knevet, knt. his son and heir, whose son, sir William Knevet, knt. in 1483, was attainted by the name of sir William Knevet, knt. of Buckenham, *conjuror*, together with the earl of Richmond, John earl of Oxford, &c. in the parliament summoned the 25th of January, in the 1st of Richard III. as being partakers with Henry earl of Richmond (afterwards Henry VII.) which cost him a good part of his estate, for he conveyed to that king his castle and manor of Buckenham, the manors of Old Buckenham, Carleton, and Tibbenham, which he had again when that monster was taken off, and then also he was forced to convey to sir James Tirrell, that king's great favourite, and then constable of the Tower, his manors of Hilborough, and two parts of Grisham, in Wymondham. He had three wives, all of noble families. Edmund Knevet, his son and heir, was unfortunately drowned in Britain-bay, in a sea-fight; the ship he belonged to, called the Regent of England, was burned. He left several sons; Edmund Knevet, his second son, was serjeant-porter to Henry VIII. Sir Thomas Knevet, of Buckenham-castle, his eldest son, was standard-bearer to Henry VIII.

VIII. of whom he got a grant of the priory at its dissolution, with its appurtenances in Old and New Buckenham, viz. St. Andrew's, and All Saints churches, the priory manor, &c. all which continued in the family till sir Philip Knevet sold them. He married Muriel, daughter of Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk, by whom sir Edmund Knevet was his eldest son. He was succeeded by his son and heir, sir Thomas Knevet, who died September 22, 1569, and gave 40s. to repair the church of New Buckenham. He left sir Thomas, his son, who had sir Philip Knevet, of Buckenham-castle, his son and heir. He was sheriff of Norfolk in 1650, created baronet June 29, 1651, and for 18,508l. 10s. he sold to Hugh Audley, and his heirs, the castle and priory of Old Buckenham, the manors of old Buckenham, viz. the Castle manor, Lathes, alias Laches, the Priory and the Close manors, the manor, or burgage of New Buckenham, Tate-shale, or Tibbenham, or Tibbenham-hall, otherwise Tibbenham Knevet's, otherwise Carleton Rode, and the tythes of all the premises in Buckenham, by deed, dated June 25, 1649.

Hugh Audley, aforesaid, was sheriff of Norfolk, and dying without issue, left three sisters; Sarah, married Robert Harvey, of London, comptroller of the Custom-house. His son and heir, William, had three sons, Robert, Hugh, and Benjamin, each of whom inherited a third part.

Ambrose Holbech, of Mallington, in Warwickshire, married Sarah Harvey, and became possessed of that third part which was her brother Benjamin's; and about 1693 partition was made between Ambrose his son, who had got Hugh's part also, and Robert Harvey, of Low Layton, in Essex. At his death he left his part to John Harvey, esq. his son and heir.

He built the feat at Old Bokenham, called St. Andrew's, because it was built just by the site of St. Andrew's church, which is now turned into a barn, and settled there, and at his death left Robert Harvey, esq. his only son, who was lord and owner of that part, and Ambrose Holbeck, esq. was lord of the other two third parts.

Buckenham St. Andrew's is now the seat of Francis Head, esq. late captain of a company in the Western battalion of Norfolk militia.

The park is a very ancient one, for the founder of the monastery here, among other donations, allowed the monks the privilege of taking wood in his park, in this town; and in 1242 the king sent his writ to the keepers of the lands of Hugh de Albany, earl of Arundel, that they should deliver to Robert de Tateshale two bucks of his gift, out of the park lately belonging to the said Hugh, in his town of Buckenham. It was after separated from the manor, and in 1626 one Long, of Hingham, at the request, or by the order of the honourable Mary lady Hunsdon, late wife of the lord Hunsdon, conveyed all his right in it to sir Thomas Holland, of Kenning-hall*; but it was in various trustees' hands, and incumbered, till the title was perfected by John Holland, of Wortwell, esq. from which time it hath passed in this family, and, according to Mr. Blomfield, still remains in the heiresses of sir William Holland, knt.

In 1620 sir Thomas Holland, knt. purchased much of Henry viscount Rochford.

There

* They holding it by mortgage from the Lovells, who sold it to the Hollands.





There were several other manors here, as Buckenham's manor, the Close manor, Lathe's manor, the burgage of New Buckenham, and the priory manor.

Buckenham manor belonged to Bury abbey, and continued in it till the abbot of that monastery infeoffed William de Buckenham, who was to hold it at half a fee, and pay 14d. every twenty weeks to the guard of Norwich-castle. It continued in this family (all of them being Williams) till 1345, and in that year William de Buckenham paid 20s. relief for it. How it went from them, and when, we do not find, but in 1401 it was divided into small parcels; for in the *feodary* of that year Adam Cock, of Buckenham, and his partner's, held it.

CATCHEVACHES, CACHEVACHES, now CATSWACHES MANOR, belonged to William de Schoies, in the Conqueror's time, of whom Roger held it.

In the beginning of the reign of Henry III. Thomas de Brockdish, Robert de Weafenham, and Thomas de Barnham, held it of the honor of Clare. In 1290 William Cachevache had it. In 1401 Maud de Mounteney, then a minor, held it. In 1426 it was John Rookwood's, and others. In 1533 Hugh Wilkenfon, and others, had Catchvache's manor, in Old and New Buckenham, &c. settled on them by William Gradbach, or Catfwatch. In 1600 Hugh Wilkenfon was lord, since which time it hath passed through many hands, who have sold off most (if not all) its rents. It some time belonged to the Sorrels, and now (see Blomfield) to Mr. Edward Philips, of Banham, who owns the scite of it, which is now called Catchvache's meadow.

The CLOSE MANOR was part of the great manor till the division of it, and then it became a separate manor, and had infoken and outfoken juries, with a leet, and the profit of part of the market, and stalls, in Wymondham; a moiety of it in 1383 belonged to the prior of Buckenham, who hired the other moiety of the several lords, for that moiety divided into parts with the great manor, and went from the Cromwells to the Fitz-Williams, and from them to the Kneveys.

It lay in Buckenham, Attleburgh, Besthorpe, and Wymondham, and was held by part of the Botelry. From the Kneveys it came to the Lovells, for in 1565 Thomas Lovell held the Close manor, &c. of the queen; but by 1612 it belonged again to the Kneveys, for then sir Philip Knevet, bart. delivered seisin of the scite of it to Gabriel Pope, M. D. and Thomas Talbot, gent. at which time, we suppose, the rents and services of the manor were either joined to the other manors, or all manumised. How the scite passed afterwards we cannot say, but are informed that it now belongs to the Windhams.

The LAYS, LEES, LATHES, or GRAINGE-MANOR, had its rise out of the great manor, at the same time with the Close manor, and in 1383 the prior had a moiety of it along with that manor. In 1400 the other moiety was divided; it had a leet belonging to it, and a fair to be kept on St. Martin's day, at New-Buckenham; the mere, called Seamere, or Old Buckenham mere, belonged to it. The scite and demesnes called the Lathes, or Lays, was held of the queen, in 1564, by Thomas Lovell, esq. but the whole manor was united to the rest by the Kneveys, sir Thomas Knevet being lord of the united manors of Lathes, the Close, the Priory, and burgage of New Buckenham, in 1594.

The

The PRIORY MANOR was part of the great manor given to the priory at its foundation, and continued in it to its dissolution, when it passed with that house to sir Thomas Knevet, of Buckenham, in whose family it continued till sir Philip Knevet sold it to John Eldred, of London, esq. and John Verdon, gent. and after many conveyances it was settled on the minister of New Buckenham, for the time being, who is always lord of it.

The castle was first situated by the abbey, on the east part; the scite of it contains about three acres: it is a large entrenchment, surrounded with a deep moat, the hills being still entire. On the north side is an old arch, which served for a sewer when it was standing. This was in some decay when William de Albany pulled it down, and built the priory with its ruins, (which is the reason that there are none remaining) and gave the scite of it to that house, and then removed to a far better situation in St. Andrew's parish, the eastern part of which belonged to the bishop of Norwich, and was part of his manor of Eccles, kept in his own hands to serve his palace there, notwithstanding which the earl procured the land which was part of the haugh of William Turbus, bishop of Norwich, (who greatly favored his foundation) to be held as freely as the old castle was before the priory's foundation, (the tithes only excepted) and on this part he built the castle, and founded his burgh, called New Buckenham, close by it, having obtained licence so to do. It is pleasantly situated upon a hill, fortified with a deep moat, which remains entire, and full of water. The building is quite demolished, and ploughed over, except part of the gatehouse, and a dungeon, or *keep*, which all those places had; it is 63 yards round, and the walls about ten feet thick, and though it is not higher now than

the entrenchment, we suppose it was formerly the upper part of those keeps, generally being watch towers. It is divided in the midst by a cross wall. The Kne-vets dwelt in this castle till it was demolished by sir Philip, who sold it.

The Priory, now called the abbey, was founded by William de Albany, earl of Chichester, surnamed the Strong, who died in 1156, and by him dedicated to the honor of God, St. Mary, St. James the Apostle, and all the Saints, in which he placed black canons of the order of St. Augustine, who were governed by a prior, elected by the major part of them, and confirmed by the bishop of Norwich, after which he was installed. They were daily to pray for the soul of their founder, and of *queen* Adeliza, (or Alice) his wife, for the souls of Stephen king of England, and Maud his queen, and their progeny, and for the souls of all his ancestors, successors, parents, friends, and benefactors. They were governed by statutes, allowed by the bishop of Norwich, by whose advice it was founded; but they were in all things to follow the institution, or rules of the church of St. Mary, at Merton. He endowed it with the rectories of the churches of All-Saints, and St. Andrew's, belonging to his manor of Buckenham, which were immediately appropriated to it, and they took their whole revenues, the canons serving them, and also the site of the castle, which was to be pulled down, twenty acres of land, and the wood called little Hage, and Midcrofts, with the adjoining meadow, and New Croft before the castle gate, (on which the abbey was built, &c.) and afterwards he got the foundation confirmed by the king, and bishop. William de Albany, son of the founder, gave them the advowson of Kenninghall; Richard de Scenges, St. Mary's church, at Barwick; Peter de Cley, St. Peter's, at Cley-thorpe,
now

now Cockley-Cley; and Robert de Tateshale, Gunby, and a piece of land called Monkwell, for a pittance, as has been observed. Besides these churches, many persons were liberal benefactors, in lands, &c. all which grants were confirmed by the king, in 1337.

In 1428 the prior's temporals in Old Buckenham were taxed at 22l. 16s. 10d. ob. The total of the spirituals of this house, lying in Norfolk, were taxed at 77l. 13s. 4d. and paid 5l. 15s. 8d. every tenth. The total of their temporals in Norfolk were taxed at 52l. 9d. ob. and paid 5l. 4s. 1d. every tenth. The whole of their temporals and spirituals at this time being taxed at 109l. 14s. 1d. ob. and so paid every tenth 10l. 19s. 9d. At the dissolution it was valued at 131l. 11s. per ann. In 1479 they had lands in all the Buckenham, &c. In 1746 the bishop certified the barons of the Exchequer, that the prior of Buckenham held, impropriated to that house, the churches of St. Benedict, in Norwich, of Gryston, in Breccles Deanry, of Bukenham All-Saints, St. Andrew's, and St. Martin's, St. Peter of Cley, and West Bradenham, in Cranewise deanry, and Barwick, in Hicham deanry, and that they have been so held ever since 1177, and before, even from its foundation; and that the prior always pays all taxes granted by the clergy to the king for those churches, there being no vicars endowed upon any of them. The scite of the priory, after the dissolution, was granted to sir Thomas Knevet, and went with the priory manor, in that family, and is now owned by Mr. Holbech. (*Vide* Blomfield).

There are very few ruins remaining, the walls of the church are quite down, but the foundations may be easily traced. It was in the conventual form, with the tower in the middle, and had a nave, two aisles, two transepts, a choir, and north vestry; the monastery

tery flood on the north side of it, and was a good square court. On the wood work of an old gate are the arms of Albany carved, which looks very old. We have seen a piece of silver which was found in digging in the ruins of the church, anno 1723, which has a shield of arms, on which is a fess between two chevrons; a canton erm. impales quarterly a bend; this looks as if it had been buried with its owner.

John Mylegate, or Millgate, prior, Richard Ryntwz, and five others, subscribed to the supremacy. This John was the last prior, and resigned the house to the king. Sir Thomas Browne, &c. were canons at the resignation.

In 1493 the monastery, then full, consisted of a prior, an auditor, (who was not a religious, but one appointed by the lord to audit their annual accompts) and ten canons, who yearly received for their stipends 40s. each, besides their maintenance and cloathing; out of these, a sub-prior, sacrist, and celerer, were yearly chosen. The temporal officers of the house were the steward of their courts, a hey-ward, woodward, and janitor, constantly attending at the monastery gates. They yearly received for the total income of the monastery about 110l. and disbursed about 100l.

The Rev. author of a topographical essay gives us here a detail of the yearly rents, annual out-goings, spiritual out-goings, &c. of this priory, which we purposely omit, as tedious and uninteresting.

The chapel of St. Mary the Virgin, in Old Buckenham, was founded soon after the castle, by the lords of it, and was supplied by a custos and two or three chaplains, his brethren, who had their dwelling at the west end of it, and constantly served there; it was

was the only place of worship that the burgh of New Buckenham had till the present church was founded, which was some time after the chapel; at the dissolution it came to the lord's hands, and not long afterwards was converted into a barn, as it now remains. It stands on the south side of the castle, close by the road, as you enter New Buckenham. The advowson was given by the founder to the priory, and the lands belonging to the chapel were lett in 1484 at 5l. 4s. 7d.

The church of St. Andrew, in Old Buckenham, was a rectory belonging to the manor till the foundation of the priory, to which it was given by the founder, and then appropriated to it, without any vicar endowed, the monks serving it themselves to the dissolution, when it was granted to sir Thomas Knevet, along with the priory, and soon after was desecrated, and converted into a barn. It is just by Mr. Head's seat, which is called St. Andrew's. It was taxed at 20s. and paid 2s. every tenth.

In 1557 the rectory-house and glebes lett at 3l. 16s. per annum.

The church of All Saints, in Old Buckenham, is the present parish church; this was also a rectory appendant to the manor, and given by the founder to the priory, to which it was then appropriated, but no vicar endowed; it was served by the monks, who found a stipendiary curate there till the dissolution, when it was granted with the priory to sir Thomas Knevet, who received all the profits; and found a curate to serve the parish*; and thus it continued in that

* In 1603 the curate here returned answer that the number of communicants were 240.

that family till 1611, when it was mortgaged, with the king's licence, along with Knevet's manor, in Tibbenham, to sir Thomas Herne, knt. After this it was mortgaged several times, till at last sir Philip Knevet sold to every one (that would purchase them) the tithes of their own lands, and the rest the parish purchased, together with the chancel and church-yard, and vested them in Robert Wright, and John Allen, and their heirs, who reconveyed to sir Philip all manner of tithes, oblations, &c. which might be due to the said rectory from any of his own land, and all those tithes which they sold as trustees to sir Philip, to Robert Jellie, Jacob Preston, and the rest of the parishioners that had purchased their parts; after which they settled the chancel and church-yard of Old Buckenham All Saints, with all the great and small tithes, &c. together with all other temporals whatever belonging thereto, on a great number of feoffees, who were to hold all the rectories of All Saints, and St. Andrew's, (except the church-yard, parsonage-house, and glebe lands of St. Andrew's, and of all those tithes which were sold before this feoffment) with all the tithes of corn, grain, hay, and all other great and small tithes, &c. whatsoever, to them and their heirs, in trust, to the following uses: that they, or the major part of them, shall for ever nominate, elect, and choose, an honest, learned minister, for and in the name of the town of Old Buckenham aforesaid, to serve in All Saints church once in a week, and perform all services there; who, upon such choice, shall be licensed according to the laws of the realm; after which he shall be allowed out of the rectory aforesaid, an annual stipend of 16l. 13s. 4d. to be paid by the feoffees, one half upon every 2d day of February, and the other half upon the 1st day of August, on which days they are to make and produce a just account unto sir Philip Knevet

Knevet and his heirs, and the churchwardens of the town for the time being, and to all the rest of the inhabitants of the town who shall think fit to be there, to see the accompts of the whole profits, and what overplus of the profits remains (the stipend and charges being deducted) shall be by them paid into the churchwardens hands, to be by them employed to repair the chancel; and church-yard walls; and when all the feoffees are dead to five, they shall be obliged to make a new feoffment to ten persons at least, all which shall be parishioners of this parish; and lest there should arise any disputes concerning the parts sold off, the lands and tenements so discharged, with the several purchasers names, are mentioned, and all the lands which pay all manner of tithes to the feoffees are separately described in nine rolls of parchment, annexed to the feoffment, among which the Layes, containing 100 acres, a messuage and 100 acres, being the scite of Buckenham Close Manor, six closes thereto belonging, containing 80 acres, 50 acres more belonging to the same messuage, 24 acres called Broomhill Close, 12 acres called Little Pond's Meadow, 8 acres called Fir-Close, 30 acres called Hawte-Close, in the New Park, 80 acres called Harling-Wood, 16 acres called Thorne-Croft, and 60 acres called Fir-Closes, are the largest parcels, though there are, besides these, 48 messuages and cottages, and 200 acres thereto belonging.

The prior was taxed at thirteen marks for the rectory, and paid 17s. 4d. for it to every tenth.

In 1774 the Rev. John France was licensed to this curacy.

The church and chancel are thatched, the steeple is octangular, there are five bells, and the north aisle is leaded.

In

In the chancel lies a stone for—*John Welham, gent. who died July 10, 1713, aged 66 years.*

On a brass plate, Preston's arms and crest:—*Hic requiescit corpus Jacobi Preston, genr: qui vitam hanc expiravit in fide Christi LXVI. ætatis suæ, anno Dom. 1630*.*

Another brass plate,—*Matthew Sturdyvant, gent. who died March 21, 1604. aged 83 years; he gave by his last will, towards the maintenance of a school in this parish for ever, 100l. and towards three new bells to be bought 20l.†*

The arms of St. George, Knevet, and Bury Abbey, are in the windows; also Tatefhale and Clifton quarterly; Tatefhale and Clifton impaled with Thorp; Tatefhale; the priory arms; Barry of ten gul. and arg. quartering Cailly; Cromwell, quartering Tatefhale; and Knevet, quartering Clifton.

There are several angels holding some of the arms, with labels from their mouths, viz.—*Salve regina, mater misericordiæ. Beata Dei genetrix Maria. Ave regina cælorum, ave domina.*

On hatchments in the chancel, Harvey impales Houblon, alias Vandeprot.

In the dormitory, on the north side of the chancel, are the coffins of John Harvey, esq. Elizabeth, his wife, and several of their children.

On

* He had a good estate here, and was father of sir Isaac Preston, knt. of Beeston St. Lawrence, in Tunstead.

† The school is still kept, and (as we are informed) something more is added to the stipend.

On a head-stone by the steeple,—*Here lieth the body of John Grey, gent. steward of many manors for (almost) sixty years, faithful to his lords and kind to the tenants; he kept courts, and wrote very fair in the 90th year of his age, (things rare) in which he died, upon the 16th day of July, anno Dom. 1713.*

The customs of the manors are, that the fine is at the lord's will, and the eldest son is heir.

This town is situated round a pleasant green, the church standing on the east side of it, the scite of the abbey being north-east, and that of St. Andrew's south-east. There is a fair kept on it every 29th of May*. It is a town of large bounds, for it paid to the tenths 5l. 13s. and is now assessed at 1996l. to the land tax, hath 105 dwelling-houses, and about 550 inhabitants.—*Vide Blomfield.*

ECCLES is bounded on the east by Wilby, on the west by Larling and Snitterton, on the north by Hargham, and on the south by Quiddenham; it hath one manor only, to which the advowson of the rectory now is, and always was appendant. It is often called in French deeds, about the time of Edward III. *L'Eglise*, or, The Church, which hath induced us to think, that it took that name by way of eminence, it being the bishop's own church, and a place where most of them, to the time of Henry VIII. often resided, in their palace† here, as appears from

* There is no authority for the fair, but custom only. There is a house and ground in the town settled on the school-master, worth 6l. per ann. for which he is obliged to teach four poor children of this parish, without any payment for so doing.

† The palace is now quite ruined, the moats, foundations, &c. may be seen in the low meadows, about a furlong, or
more,

from the great number of persons that were instituted at this place, and from the additional name of *Eccles Episcopi*, or Bishop's Eccles, by which it was always distinguished from Eccles *by the sea*.

The manor was very extensive, including all this town, great part of St. Andrew's parish, in Buckenham, or all New Buckenham, and the Haugh in Old Buckenham, besides lands in most of the adjacent parishes. It was held by Ralph earl of Norfolk in the Confessor's time, who gave it to Egelmær, or Ailmer, bishop of Elmham, just before the conquest, who held it of the earl, as did his successors. At the survey it was fallen from 5l. value to 3l. and was two miles long, one broad, and paid 7d. gelt. In the record, called *Testa de Nevil*, it appears that it belonged to the bishop, but they could not tell whether it was part of his barony, or whether he held it in free alms.

In the year 1200 king John, by his charter under seal, dated at Gaytinton, Nov. 28, confirmed to John Grey, chief justice of England, and bishop of Norwich*, his great favourite, and to the church of the Holy Trinity at Norwich, and to the succeeding bishops and monks serving God there, all their lands, villages, churches, possessions, rents, tenements, liberties, and ancient customs whatsoever, which they had confirmed

more, S. E. of the church. The whole tithes of New Buckenham, and of the lands called the Bishop's Haugh, or Hawe, in Old Buckenham, are now paid to the rector of Eccles yearly.

* Pope Alexander III. by bull, dated 1176, among other things, confirmed to John bishop of Norwich "*Eccles cum loca, &c.*"

confirmed, and given them in the time of Henry I. and II. and Richard I. and also all the charters, deeds, grants, and gifts of all his ancestors: and furthermore, at the request of the said bishop, by this charter, he granted them throughout all their lands, sac and soc, toll, theam, infengenthes, &c. with the liberty of not serving at hundred courts, sheriffs turns, or any other courts out of their manors, and that they and the tenants residing in their manors should transact every thing among themselves, at the views of frank-pledge in their manors; and that all manner of felons goods, and forfeitures of the tenants and burghesses, residing on the bishop's demesnes, should be free from all toll, pontage, package, lastage, stallage, &c. throughout all England, for all goods which they shall buy, sell, and carry, by water or land, except within the liberties of the city of London, with other large liberties expressed in the said charter; all which were exemplified * under seal the 7th of Feb. 36 Eliz. 1593, at the request of Thomas and James Plowman, alias Cann, and Thomas Barnes, inhabitants of Eccles, on the behalf and for the use of the tenants, townsmen, and inhabitants of the said town, who have enjoyed the same liberties from the first grant to the present time. The ducking-stool and gallows stood on Gallow-hill, almost a mile east of the town.

This manor continued in the bishopric till bishop Nix, unfortunately falling under a premunire, for
 G *which*

* The exemplification is in the hands of Mr. Lanham, of Yaxley, in Suffolk, who owns an estate here. Cart. 35. H. 3. No. 2. The leet always belonged to the manor, and it has free-warren, and so was never appendant to the hundred, for which reason the lord of the hundred hath nothing to do in this manor.

which he was by law to suffer perpetual imprisonment, and loss of all his goods, was forced to purchase his peace of Henry VIII. by exchanging the large estates (viz. thirty good manors and more) belonging to his bishopric for the abbey and revenues of St. Bennet of Holme; and that this agreement might remain firm for ever, the king procured that it should be settled by act of parliament, that the bishop of Norwich should be always abbot of St. Bennet of Holme; and, on the contrary, the abbot of Holme bishop of Norwich*; by which exchange this manor came to the crown, and there continued till Nov. 12, 1559. when queen Elizabeth granted the manor, advowson, sheep-walks, and all other privileges thereto belonging, to sir Nicholas Bacon, knt. lord keeper of the great seal, and to his heirs, to be held by him and them in as full and ample a manner as any of the ancient bishops held it when it belonged to that see: he conveyed it to sir Nathaniel Bacon, knight of the bath, of Stiffkey, in the hundred of North Greenhoe, his youngest son, who kept a court here from about 1572 to 1595; he settled a moiety of it on Elizabeth, his second daughter and co-heiress, upon her marrying sir Thomas Knevet, jun. knt. In 1631 this moiety was settled by dame Elizabeth Knevet, aforesaid, on Muriell, wife of sir Charles le Grosse, knt. of Crostweyt, and her heirs, sir Roger Townshend, sir Robert Gaudy, and others, being then concerned as co-heirs of the estate of sir Nathaniel Bacon, who had settled the other moiety on sir Owen Smith in remainder, after the death of
Dorothy,

* The bishop of Norwich is the only abbot in England, and now sits in parliament by virtue of the barony of Holme-abbey, the barony formerly belonging to the bishopric being in the crown. N. B. Holme was a mitred abbey, and as such, its abbots always sat in parliament.

Dorothy, his second wife, eldest daughter of sir Arthur Hopton, knight of the bath, at the coronation of king James, which Dorothy was relict of William Smith, of Burgh-Castle, in Suffolk, and thus it continued in moieties for some time.

In 1642 sir Charles le Grosse, knt. and Fitz-Nunn Lambe, esq. held their first court, the Hopton's having sold their moiety to the Lambs, who after became possessed of the whole, in whose family it continued till about 1712, and then Mr. Edmund Lamb sold it to Mr. William Green, of Stafford, whose son, the late William Green, esq. became lord, and Mrs. Mary Green, of Eccles, his widow, was, after his decease, lady: William Green, esq. is now lord and patron.

The customs of this manor are, that the fine is at the lord's will, the tenants cannot waste their copyhold without licence, the eldest son is heir, there is no leet fee, or common fine, and it gives no dower.

The commons belonging to this town are these: the Wroo, Rouse-Hill, the Great Fen, the Little Fen, South Moor, North Moor, West Ling, or the further heath, containing in all about 180 acres, on all which the lord hath no right of commonage, but it solely belongs to the tenants, who can common horses, cows, and all other cattle, and cut and carry away furze at all times from Rouse-Hill; and the further heath, and flags and turf from the fens.

There is a hamlet called Overey, which had a church formerly, for we meet with "the rector of Overey," but it never had any institution, which makes us think it always belonged to Eccles, and was served by that rector, because in the beginning of

the reign of Henry VIII. Overey is said to belong to Eccles, as it now doth.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary; it has a round tower, and three bells, the nave is leaded, the chancel and north porch tiled, and the south aisle (which hath a roof distinct from the nave) is thatched. It is a rectory in Norfolk archdeaconry, and Rockland deanry, valued in the king's books at 14l. per ann. and pays 1l. 8s. per ann. tenths. It is altogether exempt from archidiaconal jurisdiction, and so pays no procurations, and it being the bishop's own seat, he always excused the rector from payment of synodals, so that there are none paid, except at the general visitations: it is a small village, having much decreased for some time by the lord's purchasing many of the cottages and small tenements.

In 1603 it had 108 communicants, paid 30s. a year to the tenths, and is now assessed at 338l. 10s. to the land tax.

There is a rectory-house, which was built by bishop Nix, whose arms, with the arms of the see, were in the windows, but were lost when the house was burned down some years since, in Mr. Birch's time, who re-built it; there is a convenient quantity of glebe belonging to it.

In bishop Nix's time, anno 1510, one Thomas, a priest of Norwich, was burned at Eccles: when he was in prison he was by persuation lead away from his former opinions, wherefore, when he went to be burned, he would for penance be carried on sharp hurdles, made of thorns.

This

This bishop was certainly a greater bigot to Popery than could well consist with his learning and station, for when he was very old he obstinately opposed the Reformation, then begun, and held secret correspondence with the court of Rome, though he had with a solemn oath openly renounced the pope's supremacy; but at last being accused and convicted, he was imprisoned a long time in the Marshalsea, so that his own sufferings may in some measure clear him of his vices, and argue his sincerity in his religion, though erroneous.

The south aisle of the church seems a later building than the nave, and was formerly appropriated to the bishop's palace, but now belongs to the parish; the altar in it, in all probability, was dedicated to St. Nicholas the bishop, his effigy being formerly painted on the wall.

In the north chancel window were pictures of St. German, St. Anthony, and St. Bennet, and under them,—*Sanctus Germanus*.—*Beati Antoni, ora pro nobis*.—*Sancta Benedicte, ora pro nobis*.—And the arms of Edward the Confessor, and Clifton and Tateshale, in the first half of the escutcheon, impaling Howard, but most of them are now lost.

On the north side of the chancel is a mural monument of white marble, inscribed to the Rev. Samuel Birch, A. M. rector here, *obijt*. Dec. 12, 1732, aged 32.

William Green, esq. eldest son and heir of William Green, esq. deceased, (who is buried in the chancel) hath a seat here, and became lord and patron after the decease of Mrs. Mary Green, his mother, who held it in jointure.—*Blomfield*.

In 1733 the Rev. John Hull was presented to this rectory by William Green, esq.

William Woodley, esq. who served the office of high sheriff of Norfolk, in 1768, resides at his seat at Eccles.

ELLINGHAM, GREAT, wrote in Doomsday-book Helincham, and Elincham. This town was in three parts at the conquest, and hath continued so to this time, there being now three manors; the capital manor was always called as it now is.

ELLINGHAM, or ELLINGHAM-HALL. It belonged to Turketel, the Dane, in the Confessor's days, and to Waribold, or Warbold, in the Conqueror's, who held it of Hermer de Ferrers, to whom the Conqueror had given it; it was then worth 5*l.* and the whole town was two miles long, and one broad, and paid 19*d.* gelt. It afterwards came to the earl Warren, of whom the Wormegays held it, till William de Wormegay infeoffed William de Ellingham, who held it at two fees of sir Hugh Bardolph, and had a charter for free-warren. In 1369 Alexander de Ellingham conveyed the whole manor, and advowson, to sir Robert Mortimer, knt. In 1402 the advowson was separated from the manor, and the latter went to sir John Fitz-Ralph, of Scoulton, knt. in right of Margery his wife, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of sir Thomas Mortimer, of Attleburgh. For want of male heirs it went to Maud Fitz-Ralph, who married sir Robert Conyers, knt. who died seised, and John Conyers, their son, inherited, but having no issue, in 1472 he released it to Henry Spelman, esq. in trust for Thomas his son, who had married Anne, one of the two daughters and co-heiresses of Thomas Conyers, esq. his brother; he died in 1483, and in 1499
Thomas

Thomas Spelman, gentleman, of Mekyll Ellingham, held it of Shropham hundred, who died seised, and by his will, dated this year, ordered to be buried in the church, to which he gave 20l. for a suit of vestments, "and to the gild of our Lady, in honowr, and "worschypp of her, *v. joyes*, 5s." Henry his brother inherited; he died without issue in 1525, and was buried here; upon which this manor went to Anthony Gurney, esq. of North Barsham, in right of Margaret his wife, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of sir Robert Lovell, by Ela Conyers, his wife, who was sister to Ann Conyers, mother to Henry Spelman; but Berryhall went to the heirs of William De-Grey, of Merton, in right of Christian his wife, the daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Manning. After 1641 it went to Margaret Gurney, his aunt, who married Mr. Henry Davy, of Great Ellingham, whose sole daughter and heiress, Mary, married sir Roger Potts, bart. of Great Ellingham and Mannington, who sold it to Mr. Francis Colman, of Norwich, the present lord, who now (says Blomfield) dwells in the manor-house, called Ellingham-hall.

The customs of this manor are, that the eldest son is heir, it is set fine at 3s. an acre, and there are very considerable barley rents paid in kind, if the lord does not choose to compound for them. The leet belongs to the hundred, and the fee 3s. 6d. 3q.

BURGH-HALL, or BERRY-HALL, MANOR, at the conquest belonged to Robert de Beaufo, the soke of it was then appendant to the hundred, as it now is, there being no leet; it afterwards belonged to the lords of Buckenham-castle, and was part of those eleven fees which Hugh de Vere held of Robert de Tatefale; and in 1304 Thomas de Cailly had it. In 1305 it belonged to Baldwin de Manerijis, or Man-

ners, who held it of Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk. It afterwards passed through many hands, till it belonged to the Mortimers, and went with Elizabeth Mortimer to sir Ralph Bigot, of Stockton, her husband, who held it for life, and after his death she enjoyed it to her own, in 1463. and then by will gave it to John Manning, her last husband, and his heirs, who in 1428 was justice of peace and of gaol delivery, in the bishop of Ely's liberty of Mitford hundred. At his death it went with Christian, one of his daughters and co-heiresses, to William De-Grey, of Merton, esq. who died in 1474, from which time it hath gone in a lineal descent to Thomas De-Grey, of Merton, esq. the present lord.

The custom of the manor is, that the fines are at the lord's will, and the eldest son is heir.

This church was valued in the king's books at 6l. 5s. 10d. and being sworn of the clear yearly value of 31l. 16s. 10d. it hath been augmented, (as we are informed) by the Rev. Mr. John Cater, late vicar and patron, who settled part of the great tithes upon the vicar. It stands in Mr. Edton's last edition of the value, &c. as a rectory, the reason of which is, that on its appropriation to the college the vicarage was never taxed, but the college paid the whole first-fruits, not at the institution of each vicar, but of each master, so that as to first fruits and tenths, it always was a rectory, but being under value, it is now discharged of both.

In 1402 the advowson of this rectory was appendant to the manor, till the division of the Mortimer estate, and then the manor went to Margery, wife of sir John Fitz-Ralph, knt. and the advowson to Cecily, widow

widow of sir John de Herling. knt. who gave it to the master and fellows of Attleburgh college, or chantry, and they at their foundation got it appropriated to their house, by bull from pope John XXIII. dated at Rome, in June, 1411, when a vicarage was created by the bishop.

In January 12, 1475, the vicar sued the master and fellows because the vicarage was worth no more than nine marks a year, and made them augment it for ever with four marks per ann. payable at Easter, and Michaelmas, out of their great tythes.

The RECTORY MANOR always belonged to the rectors; for in the Conqueror's survey it appears that there were then divers lands and services belonging to the church, but at the appropriation in 1402 it was taken from it, and seuted as part of the rectory, on the college, and went with the rectory and advowson of the vicarage, at the dissolution, to the earl of Suffex, in whose family it continued till after 1639. In 1641 James Lloyd, gent. and Abraham Turner, presented. It afterwards belonged to Thomas Cockayne, of Sunning, in Berks, and was lately owned, with the impropriation and advowson, by the Rev. Mr. John Carter.

The customs are the same as Berry-hall manor.

This town paid 4l. to the tenths, and is assessed at 733l. In 1603 it had 360 communicants, and now there are about 400 inhabitants. It is a vicarage endowed and augmented. The prior of Wymondham's temporalities in this town were taxed at 6s. 8d. and the prior of Buckenham's at 11s. 9d. The honor of Clare extended hither, for in 1564 Thomas Greene, clothier, held the pasture lands called Isehalls of the queen,

queen, as of her honor of Clare, by knight's service.

At the upper end of the church lies a stone, which had a brass plate inscribed—*To Henry Spelman, esq. who died March 1, 1525.* On the upper part of the stone were the arms of Spelman impaling Mortimer, and Spelman quartering Manning.

In 1509 Adam Cowper, of Moche Ellingham, was buried here, in whose will is this clause; “ I geff
“ unto the church of Elyngham aforeseyd iii acres,
“ and a rode of free lond, lying in a felde, called
“ West-felde, at Hesyllmere-bush.”

Anthony Gurnay, of Great Ellingham, esq. was buried in this church in 1557.

The church is dedicated to St. James the Apostle, the south chapel to St. Peter. The north aisle chapel is called Mortimer's chapel, and was made at the expence of that family, as appears by their arms scattered about it.

The nave, two ailes, and the chapels at their east ends, with the chancel, are leaded, the porch is tiled, the tower is square, hath a spire on it, and five bells in it.

There are two black marbles in the chancel, one inscribed—*To Elizabeth, the wife of Charles Potts, citizen, and merchant: taylor of London, who died September 2, anno Domini 1706, at Kensington, in Middlesex, aged 21 years.*

The other—*To Philip Potts, son of sir Roger Potts. obiit 1698, ætatis 27.*

There

There is a stone in the chancel disrobed, of the effigy of a woman, and the arms of Willoughby and Conyers, and Conyers quartering Fitz-Ralph, with this inscription:—*Orate pro anima Ann nuper uxoris Richardi Wyllugby, armigeri, unius filiarum et heredum Thomæ Conyers, armigeri, que obiit xxii^o die Octobris, anno Domini 1499.*

There are divers arms in the windows, and upon the seats and screens in the church and chancel: Fitz-Ralph, Manning, quarterly; Willoughby, Mortimer of Attleburgh, Spelman, Conyers, Kerdeston, Montchenfy, Swathying, Hetherfet, Felbrigg, Plantagenet, Butler, Bassingbourne, and Bundevice. Edward the Confessor, and the following arms and emblem of St. James, viz. the pilgrim's staff and ring, his bag, pouch, and esclop shells, which were the badges of the pilgrims that frequently travelled to Compostella, where St. James lies buried.

On September 29, 1747, Ellingham *Magna* was consolidated with Ellingham *Parva*; and in 1777 the Rev. Thomas Bond had this vicarage on his own presentation.

HARGHAM, or HARPHAM, is wrote in Doomf-day book Herkeham. This town never had but one manor, of which Ulf, a freeman, was lord in the time of the Confessor, when it was valued at 20s. At the conquest it was given to R. de Bellofago (or Beaufo) who gave it to Caurincus, who held it of him at the survey, when it was worth 30s. was a mile long, another broad, and paid 6d. ob. 1 q. Dane-geld. The descendents of this Caurincus assumed to themselves the surname of Herkeham, Harcham, Hargham, Herford, or Harpham; for their name, as well as that of the town, was oftentimes spelled different, according

to the age it was wrote in. This family soon became very numerous, for in the time of Henry I. there were three several branches of it in good repute; but we shall only take notice of the eldest family, which all along held the manor, and the oldest that we meet with is William de Herkeham*, and his descendent, William de Harcham, was lord in 1249 of the manors and advowsons of Swanton, and Hargham.

In 1345, in the 20th of Edward III. Thomas de Herford scutled all his manors of Swanton, Badburg-ham, (now Babram) in Cambridgeshire, and Hargham, with the advowson of Haigham, after his mother's death, on Maud de Lancaster, countess of Ulster, and her trustees; and John de Herford, who was brother and heir to Henry, released his right, so that the fee became vested in Maud de Lancaster, relict of William de Burgh, earl of Ulster, who obtained leave of Edward III. at the intercession of Henry earl of Lancaster, her brother, to found a chantry of a master, and four chaplains, in the chapel of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, in the priory church belonging to the nuns at Campesse, in Suffolk, and in order to endow it, the king granted licence to the prioress and nuns of Campesse to receive and hold in mortmain the advowsons of the churches of Burgh, in Suffolk, and Hargham, in Norfolk, of the gift of the said countess, and to assign them to the custos of the said chantry for ever, with licence to appropriate them to the custos and chaplains for ever, for their maintenance; but the bishop would never consent to the appropriation; and whereas it was certified by Lionel duke of Clarence, and earl of Ulster, that the chaplains went in secular habits, neglected their office, and wasted the revenues of the chantry, he had leave

* In 1184 fir Robert de Harpham was elected abbot of St. Mary's, at York, and died May 13, 1189.

leave to appropriate all the revenues of the chantry to sustain an abbess, and other religious women, of the order of St. Clare, in Rokehall, in Brusfyrd in Suffolk, and to erect an abbey, and endow it with whatever belonged to the chantry; upon which the abbey was erected, and this advowson transferred to the abbess, who presented to the dissolution, and was then granted, in 1538, by the king, together with the advowson, and all other lands belonging to the abbey, lying in Hargham, to Nicholas Hare, and his heirs, to be held in capite at half a knight's fee; and in 1539 Nicholas Hare, aforesaid, esq. had licence to sell the whole to John Green, and his heirs, who had a great estate in Wilby, Snitterton, Banham, Attleburgh, Hargham, Old Buckenham, and Kenninghall; but in 1580 it descended equally among the daughters and co-heiresses of his son Thomas. In 1583 Paul Gooche, of Banham, John Launce, of Haleworth, William Brook, of Euston, in Suffolk, Thomas Colby of Banham, gent. and William Hunston, of Walsoken, in right of their wives, were possessed each of a fifth part, and Paul Gooche hired the whole. In 1586 they all joined and conveyed the whole absolutely to Paul Gooche, and his heirs, who in 1587 sold the whole to Henry Gurnay, esq. who sold it to Richard Howell, jun. esq. of Hillington, and he to sir Ralph Hare, knt. who settled it, in 1620, on sir Thomas Coventry, knt. upon the marriage of his son with sir Thomas's daughter, from which time it hath passed in the Hares.

The customs were these, the eldest son was heir; the fines were at the lord's will, and it gave no dower; the leet belonged to the hundred, but now there is neither leet nor tenants, the whole being exchanged and manumised, or in the lord's own hands.

Sir John Hare of Stow Bardolph, in Norfolk, knt. son of sir Ralph Hare, knight of the bath, held his first court October 29, 1623; he married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas earl of Coventry, and she held her first court in 1638. Their son, Nicholas Hare, of Hargham, esq. was buried here Nov. 17, 1689, and left Ralph Hare, of Hargham, esq. and of the Middle Temple, barrister at law, buried here Nov. 18, 1709: he had six sons and six daughters, and was succeeded by his eldest son and heir, Thomas Hare, of Hargham, esq. buried here in 1736, who by Mary, daughter and heiress of Joseph Sharpe, of Thetford, esq. had Hugh Hare, esq. born in 1729; and Ann, born in 1727. This Hugh Hare, esq. now resides at his pleasant seat of Hargham, which he has ornamented in a neat stile of improvement. The turnpike road between Norwich and London runs close by the park, which renders it a most desirable situation, either for pleasure or convenience.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 4l. 4s. 2d. and being sworn of the clear yearly value of 34l. 1s. 8d. it is discharged of first-fruits and tenths, though it pays yearly 1s. 3d. synodals, and 3s. procurations; it hath a rectory-house, and thirty acres two roods and an half of glebe*.

The

* September 29, 1685, the lord and the rector exchanged lands, the lord had sixteen acres and one rood, and the rector received for it nineteen acres and three roods. The rector hath also two roods, called Bell-Acre, besides the aforesaid glebe, for which he is obliged to find the *bell-ropes*. Mortuaries are due in this parish, viz. every one that dies worth 20l. pays the rector 3s. 4d. if worth 30l. 6s. 8d. if 40l. 10s. but it rises no higher, and there is nothing paid under 20l. value.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and has a nave, chancel, and south porch, tiled, a square tower and three bells.

Hargham is a small village, the whole (except one farm) being purchased by the lords, hath reduced it to six houses, and about fifty inhabitants, though it had fifty-five communicants in 1603; it paid 30s. a year to the tenths, and is now assessed at 230l. to the land tax.

At the entrance of the south door are two small brass plates, in memory of Agnes and Thomas Gall, who were of a considerable family in this town.

A black marble before the desk,—*To Henry Pitts, A. B. rector of this, and vicar of Roudham, who died August 28, 1728.*

There were divers arms on the old roof of the chancel, all which were defaced when the new roof was erected, as we learn from a manuscript among Mr. le Neve's collections, viz.—Vere, Howard, Verdon, Beauchamp, St. George, Branch, &c.

Latin inscriptions and arms are on black marbles in the chancel;—Hare impales Geary:—This is for Nicholas Hare, esq. who married Katherine, daughter of William Geary; esq. of Bushmead-Abbey, in Bedfordshire, *obijt* Nov. 15, 1689.—Hare impaling Willis;—for Ralph Hare, esq. who married Ann, daughter of sir John Willis, bart. of Ditton, in Cambridgeshire, *obijt* Nov. 16, 1709, *ætatis* 52. She died Sept. 25, 1728, aged 57.

Here are also monuments to Alice Hare, who died April 26, 1713, aged 76; and to Catherine, fourth daughter

daughter of Ralph Hare, esq. who died Aug. 23, 1722, aged 20 years.

In the time of Edward I. the rector had a house and forty acres of land, and the rectory was not taxed, and so paid no first-fruits.—*Dooms. Norwic.*

In 1682 the plate belonging to this church was only a silver cup and cover.

In 1769 the Rev. William Lobb was presented to the rectory of Hargham, consolidated with Wilby, by Hugh Hare, esq.

HOCKHAM, or HOCHAM. *Hocham*, or The Town in the Dirt, as the name signifies, was a rectory appendant to the manor till the year 1227, and then Warine de Monte Caniso, or Montchenfy, released the advowson to the prior of the monks at Thetford, to which house it was soon after appropriated, and a vicarage instituted, to which the priors presented till the dissolution.

In 1636 John Underwood, A. M. held it united to Study, with a certificate that it was *not* above twenty miles distant, and this is one of the first unions that we meet with that had any certificate of distance, the bishops of Norwich having always had power of uniting any two benefices, so that both were within their own diocese.

The impropriation and advowson of the vicarage at the dissolution went with the abbey of Thetford, and all its revenues, to Thomas duke of Norfolk, who sold it to the Coppingers, and they, about 1600, to the Jermyns, and so it was joined to the manor.

The vicarage is valued at 8l. 17s. 11d. in the king's books, and being sworn of the clear yearly value of 40l. 10s. only, it is discharged of first-fruits and tenths, and is capable of augmentation.

The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and hath no tower; the ruins of one that hath been dilapidated many years lie at the west end of it.

On a mural monument, against the north chancel wall,—*Memoriæ Roberti Baldock, filij Roberti Baldock, equitis aurati, et Mariæ, uxoris ejus, natu minoris, prælio navali contra Belgas, 28^o die Maij, anno Dom. 1673, ætatis suæ 18, occisi. posuit pater.*

On a flat marble in the chancel,—*Henricus Bacon, armiger, Bacquevilli Bacon, ar: (Dni. Nicholai Bacon de Redgrave, militis & baronetti filij natu tertij) filius natu tertius, Bacquevilli Bacon, ar: frater et hæres, obiit 13^o die Martij, anno salutis, 1647.*

Robert Kedington, of Great Hockham, esq. who married Philippa, the second daughter of Bacqueville Bacon, esq. died March 28, 1667, and is buried here, and others of his family.

Sir Robert Baldock, one of the judges of the Common Pleas during the reign of James II. was buried here; he died Oct, 4, 1691, and had two wives; the first of which was Mary, daughter of Bacqueville Bacon, of Hockam, esq.

GREAT HOCKHAM was always one manor, which belonged to Edric in the Confessor's days, and to Roger Bigot at the survey, when it was worth 4l. and was three miles long and one broad, and paid 15d. gelt; it then extended into Wayland hundred, but the su-

perior lordship of it belonged to Buckenham-Castle, as the rest of the town did, the leet belonging to the hundred of Shropham, to which the town always paid a common fine, or leet fee, of 7s. a year, till the hundred was mortgaged, and after sold to the Kedingtons, and then the leet and leet-fee, with all the liberties belonging to the leet, and the whole liberties which belonged to the hundred, were joined to the manor before they sold the hundred, and excepted upon the sale of it, so that the lord of the hundred hath no paramountship in this town. From the Bigots it went to the Albinis, who enfeoffed the Montchenys: and in 1235 Warine de Montchenfy held it at one fee of Buckenham-Castle, it being formerly one of earl Bigot's fees.

Henry III. granted Dionise Montchenfy a charter for a fair, and market, to be kept here every Friday; and in 1285 she had liberty of free-warren in all her demesnes here; but all the superior jurisdictions were at the same time allowed to Robert de Tateshale, lord of Buckenham-Castle, as superior lord of the leet, viz. view of frank-pledge, assize of bread and ale, and a pillory, as well for his own tenants as others; and in this year it was presented by the jury, sworn before the justices itinerant at Norwich, that an *unknown* man was taken at Hockham, in the manor of Dionise de Montchenfy, of Hockham, with a line of 13d. value, and was carried into the open court there, and without any one's prosecuting him was taken and hanged; upon which the sheriff was ordered to summon the said Dionise, and the suiters of her court there, to give an account of it. At her death it went to the earl of Pembroke, and so descended to the Hastings, earls of Pembroke. In 1391 Reginald Grey, knt. was lord; sir Edward Hastings, of Elsing, knt. was next heir, but for all that

that it descended to the Greys, of Ruthyn, heirs general of the family; in 1401 William Beauchamp had it, and it descended to Elizabeth, wife of Edward Neville, lord Abergavenny, daughter and heiress of Richard Beauchamp, earl of Worcester, son and heir of William, in 1475. In 1535 sir George and sir Edward Neville, knts. settled it on William Drury. In 1539 sir John and sir Christopher Heydon, knts. sold it to sir Thomas Jermyn, Knt. About 1600 Bacqueville* Bacon, esq. of Hockham, third son of sir Nicholas Bacon, of Redgrave, bart. was lord. Henry, his second son, inherited it on the decease of his brother; he died the 13th of March, 1641, and was buried here, leaving his three sisters his co-heiresses; Mary, the eldest, married judge Baldock; Philippa, the second, married Robert Kedington, who lived and died here; Ann, the third, married Nicholas Rookwood, of Euston, esq. and sold their third part to Robert Kedington, who afterwards purchased Baldock's part, and so became sole lord, and at his death left it to Philippa, his wife, who kept her first court October 15, 1667; at her death Henry Kedington, of Hockham, esq. became lord, and kept his first court October 9, 1685; and in 1702 Philip Ryley, esq. serjeant at arms to the lord treasurer, surveyor of the queen's woods and forests on the south side of Trent, and one of the commissioners of the excise, who was afterwards knighted, purchased the manor, impropriation, and advowson, of Henry Kedington, gent. and built a neat brick house here, which was also the seat of Philip Reginald Ryley, esq. his grandson and heir.

H 2

The.

* It is sometimes wrote Bacqueville, Baqueville, and Barqueville, which was the name of a family, so called from Bankerville, in Normandy.

The ancient customs and privileges within the manor of Great Hockham, as appears by the examined evidences of the said manor, are,

“ The lord hath the goods of felons *de se* within the manor; no tenant can waste his copyhold; women are dowable for a moiety of the copyhold of which their husbands are seised during the coverture.

“ A man, by the custom of this manor, is tenant by the courtesy of England, of lands and tenements of this manor, of which his wives are seised, and have issue between them.

“ No tenants of the lords, inhabiting in Great Hockham, ought to be cited to the consistory, or spiritual courts, because it is against the custom of that village, or town, and to the prejudice of the lord, as appears by the prior of the monks at Thetford, in the 1st of Henry IV.

“ Hockham-Mere, alias Cranberry-Fen, is a separate water of the lords of this manor, it contains fourteen score acres, and is in circuit 708 perches, every perch containing eighteen feet, and the lord hath a fish-house there.

“ The lord of the manor is lord of the common of pasture in Great Hockham, and of all waste in the bounds of the village.

“ The tenants give for a fine for their copyhold lands and tenements upon every alienation, whether by death or surrender, according to the ancient custom of this manor, 12d. out of every mark of the value and price of their lands and tenements by them taken up, and such fine is called mark-shilling.

“ One

“ One copyhold tenant can take a surrender, and another witness it.

“ The lands descend to the eldest son, and the manor extends into Breccles, Illington, Tottington, and Thomson.

In 1384 fir Stephen de Hales, knt. aliened divers lands here, and in other towns, to the prior of Walsingham.

In 1654 the township of Hockham held divers lands of this manor.

This town, says Blomfield, hath no market at this time; it contains about 200 souls, and paid 4l. 7s. to the tenths, and is now assessed with Little Hockham at 628l. 6s. 8d. to the king's tax.

LITTLE HOCKHAM was a small village between Great Hockham and Illington; in the Confessor's time it belonged to Ailwin, and in the Conqueror's it was held of Roger Bigot by Turolde. Roger gave the church and tithes to the priory of Thetford at their foundation, who received them separately till the church of Great Hockham was appropriated to them, and then they joined them to Great Hockham, which is the reason we meet with no institutions, though we suppose the church was not demolished till after the time of Richard II. for then we meet with the church of St. Mary at Hockham mentioned in evidences, which we believe must be this, Great Hockham being dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

The manor afterwards was held of the honor of Richmond, at a quarter of a fee, by Alen de Añestie; and in 1252 by Ralph de Neketon, who had free-

warren allowed him in it. It soon after belonged to William de Hockham, who made it compleat by joining all the lands and tenements that belonged to the manor of Wretham to it, as well those that lay in Great Hockham as in this town: he and all his tenants under him were to pay reliefs, do suit to the Halmote-Court at Wretham, pay scot and lot, and could not marry their daughters *without* licence.

In 1335 John duke of Bedford aliened to the prior of Thetford the manor of Little Hockham, but we conceive this to be only the superiority of the fee, the manor being then held of him, and afterwards of the prior, after that of the bishop of Norwich; and after the revenues of the bishopric were taken into the king's hands, it was held of the crown.

In 1538 Ambrose Jermyn was lord; it afterwards belonged to the Bedingfields.

In 1616 there were five copyhold tenants, which paid 3l. 12s. rent, two tenements, worth 8l. per ann. a sheep-walk, &c. It now pays all dues to Great Hockham; there being only two farms in the village, of which the manor-house is one, which, with the manor, was owned by William Jermy, of Norwich, esq. in right of his wife, who was sister and sole heiress of the right honourable lord Richardson, baron of Cramond, in Scotland.

The fines are at the lord's will, and the eldest son is heir. The leet belongs to the hundred, but there being so few inhabitants it is seldom kept.

Mr. Benoni Mallett, an opulent farmer at Duntun, near Fakenham, is now lord and patron of Hockham,

Hockham, by purchase; and in 1772 he presented the Rev. Anthony Carr to the vicarage.

ILLINGTON, ILLINKETUNE, or ILSINGTUNE, is a small village joining to Roudham and Larlingford; the church is dedicated to St. Andrew, and is a rectory; it hath a rectory-house and glebe, and was valued at 6l. 19s. 2d. in the king's books, it was sworn of the clear yearly value of 37l. 2s. by which means it is discharged of first-fruits and tenths, though it pays 1s. synodals, besides the archdeacon's procurations.

In 1603 there were thirty-two communicants in this village, and now (Blomfield) there are about sixty inhabitants; it paid 53s. to the tenths, and is now assessed at 257l. to the land tax. The chief, if not the whole of this town, belongs to the Churchmans, whose seat stands about two furlongs N. W. of the church.

The church and chancel are very small, having a square tower at the west end.

There is an altar-tomb in the chancel for sir John Churchman, knt. some time patron of this church, who suddenly departed this life Feb. 24, 1688, aged 56.—*Moriendo perpetuam vitam lucratur.*

The prior of Buckenham had lands here of the gift of the Buckenhams, taxed at 2s. 9d.

The abbot of Sibeton, in Suffolk, held the 25th part of a knight's fee, which was either given or sold to that house, by Henry de Esthall, before 1291, for then the abbot was returned to hold it of the said Henry, who held it of Adam de Cailly, he of the

earl Warren, and he of the king, to whom the abbot paid his part, to make his eldest son a knight. It was taxed at 11s. 3d. ob.

Here was a parcel of land given to the abbey of Bury, for which the sacrist of that monastery was taxed at 2s.

EAST-HALL MANOR. At the time of the conquest the whole town belonged to William earl Warren, and was of 20s. value in the Confessor's time, and 30s. in the Conqueror's; the whole was something better than a mile long, and a mile broad, paid 7d. gelt, and was held of the castle of Lewes, though at that time the superior jurisdiction belonged to the hundred of Shropham, the lord of which is now lord paramount of this town, keeps the leet, and receives 6d. for quit-rent of the manor, and 18d. for leet-fee. In the earl's time Berner, his servant, held it at one fee, for life; and afterwards it went to Hubert de Burgh, of whom Gilbert de Morley held it, and from him it came to the crown; king Henry gave it to Reginald de Warren, of whom William de Illington had the whole fee, and left it to Henry, his son, who built and settled in the east part of the town, during his father's life, and assumed the name of East-Hall; he divided the manor into many parts, reserving to himself the half of the town, which he held at half a fee of Adam de Cailly, as of the castle of Buckenham, and this he called East-Hall Manor.

BUCKENHAM'S, WEST-HALL, or ILLINGTON-HALL MANOR, the other half fee, he divided into many parts, all which were held of him, and became so many small manors.

In

In the time of Henry III. William de Buckenham held a quarter of a fee, which was the original of Buckenham's, West-Hall, or Illington-Hall Manor.

This family had another quarter of a fee in this and the neighbouring towns, which belonged to the earl Warren, and afterwards to Adam Cailly, who enfeoffed it in the Buckenham's, and this they joined to the other part, purchased of Henry de Easthall, together with the advowson, so that West-Hall, or Buckenham's, became now the capital manor; and in 1253 William de Buckenham had a charter for free-warren here, &c.

In 1343 John de Easthall held half a fee of Adam de Clifton, he of the earl Warren, and he of the king, which half fee was held of the said John by the abbot of Sibeton, &c. and thus these small manors continued in various hands, and were called by divers names, according to their possessors, till 1375, and then James de Wretham, and John Chaa, of Thetford, were lords of most of them, and each having a moiety, they presented jointly. In 1392 they became all united in the two chief manors of West-Hall and East-Hall, together with all the lands belonging to Welholm and Denver-Hall manors, in Larling, which lay in Illington.

In 1421 William Fleming, esq. was lord and patron; but before 1428 it was divided again into moieties, the first of which (with the whole advowson) was held by Richard Fleming, esq. and the second by John Groos, of Irstead, who died seised in 1428; and from this time it went by the name of East-Hall manor, and extinguished with the said manor of Welholm.

The manor of West-Hall, or Buckenham's, continued in the Flemings; and in 1450 sir Thomas Fleming, knt. was lord and patron. In 1530 sir Thomas Jermyn, knt. settled it on sir John Heydon, knt. it after belonged to Fulk Gray, and after that to James Downes. In 1556 Jerome Spring had it, but in 1671 Christopher Gascoigne was lord and patron, who held it till about 1600, when his grandson, Cotton Gascoigne, gent. had it. In 1626 he married Ann, daughter of sir William de Grey, of Merton, knt. who had it settled on her in jointure; she after married sir John Palgrave, who was lord and patron during her life, the reversion being sold by Cotton Gascoigne, esq. to sir John Churchman, knt. who presented in 1664, and settled here. This family is descended from John Churchman, citizen of London in the time of Richard II. Sir John married Hester, daughter of sir John Gore, of Geldeston, in Hertfordshire, knt. and had John Churchman, of Illington, esq. buried here in 1688, who by Susan, daughter and heiress of ——— Fiske, of Stiffkey, in the hundred of North Greenhoe, had William Churchman, of Illington, the present (Blomfield) lord and patron.

Sir Thomas Churchman, knt. and alderman of Norwich, served the office of mayor of that city in 1761.

In 1754 the Rev. Thomas Hawes was presented to this rectory by the bishop of Norwich, *by lapse*.

KILVERSTONE, CULVERSTETUNA CULVERCETUNA, KYNARDISTON, or KILVERDESTON, is a small village adjoining to Thetford, now wholly owned by Charles Wright, esq. the present lord. At this time
there

there are no tenants belonging to the maners, the whole being purchased in.

MONK'S-HALL MANOR was held in the Confessor's time by a freeman, under Stigand, the whole being then of 40s. value, and the town two leagues long, two broad, and paid 7d. Dane-geld. It belonged to the Conqueror afterwards, and continued in the crown till Henry I. gave it to William de Albany, who married Maud, daughter of Roger Bigot, who, upon her account, gave this manor to the prior of the monks of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in Thetford, which house was of Roger's own foundation; and accordingly we find it returned to the Exchequer in the time of Edward I. held of the barony of Buckenham. The monks had also divers lands here, of other people's gift, which thus continued till the dissolution, and then was given with the monastery to Thomas duke of Norfolk, and his heirs. The duke was beheaded in the 14th of queen Elizabeth, and in the 26th year of her reign the earl of Surrey, lord Thomas, lord William Howard, the feoffees, and trustees, all joined and sold it to Thomas Lovell, of east Harling, together with Rothenhall, in Brettenham, who in 1585 sold it to sir Charles Cornwallis, who in 1587 sold it to Thomas Wright, gent. of Weeting, and his heirs.

In the year 1285 the customs allowed to the manor belonging to the prior of Thetford, in Kilverstone, were these, sac, soc, toll, them, infangenethef, view of frankpledge, and assize of bread and ale, and till lately the leet belonging to it used to be kept. There is a fold-course for 400 ewes, 100 for the shepherd, and 250, which formerly belonged to the church, before the prior of Buttley aliened it. It was fine certain, viz. double the quit-rent, at every tenant's entry.

The

The eldest son is heir, and he can not waste the copyhold. The lord of the hundred hath the superior leet, which is held at the stone cross every Wednesday after Michaelmas day, to which all the residents do suit and service, and pay their leet-fee of 10d. yearly; and to it belong all waifs, strays, felons goods, forfeitures, &c. There were above 200 acres of common, and heath, on which the inhabitants commoned, but now every thing belongs to the lord. The master of Magdalen hospital, in Thetford, held above 26 acres near their house, which lay in the bounds of this town, and the canons of Thetford had lands here; it used to pay 5s. 8d. per ann. "*pro fine & feodo homagij*."

COXFORD MANOR, in the Confessor's days, belonged to Edric, and at the conquest to Robert Malet, lord of the honor of Eye; but one part of it was then held of the said Robert, by Walter de Cadomo, and continued divided till they united in the prior. The first part went to Ralph de Querceto, Caineto, or Cheney, who came in with the Conqueror. He gave it with Sibil, his daughter, in marriage, to Robert Fitz-Walter, founder of St. Faith's, at Horsham; to which monastery they gave two parts of the tythes of their lands in this town, which were afterwards conveyed to Coxford priory after they had the manor. The other part or moiety was always held of the honor of Eye, at a quarter of a fee; it belonged to the same Robert Fitz-Walter, after that to Guy de Ferrarijs, or Ferrers, who infeoffed the Brooms, and in 1249 Roger de Broom settled it on John prior of Coxford, and his successors, for ever. In 1428 the prior was taxed at 11l. 11s. 11d. for his temporalities here. In 1230 there was a dispute between the priors of Thetford and Coxford, concerning the separate fisheries belonging to their manors here. The prior and convent of
Coxford,

Coxford, by indenture, inrolled in chancery, dated the last day of April, 1528, sold their manor of Coxford, in Kilverstone, to Thomas duke of Norfolk, and his heirs, for 400 marks, which he paid to Henry VIII. in full of a debt due from the prior to the king, the prior being collector of the king's subsidy in the archdeaconry of Norwich, and not having repaid the money he had collected. After the duke's attainder it came to the king again, and continued in the crown till Edward VI. sold it to sir John Cornwallis, in the 4th year of his reign; and in 1587 it was sold to Thomas Wright, of Weeting, gent. and his heirs.

This family are descended from Thomas Wright, *temp.* Henry VII. They were of Lexham, in Norfolk, and of Sutton-Hall, in Brent-Bradfield, in Suffolk.

Thomas Wright, esq. son of the purchaser, built the present hall at Kilverstone, and from him descended the Wrights of Santon-Downham, and of Wangford*, in Suffolk. Thomas Wright, esq. of Kilverstone, and Weeting, his eldest son, was high sheriff of Norfolk in 1652, and died in that office. His son Thomas died in 1667, and was succeeded by Charles Wright, of Kilverstone, esq. In 1696 Henry duke of Norfolk, lord-lieutenant of the county, made him captain of that troop of horse, late his own. In 1701 he had another commission from Charles viscount Townshend, of Raynham, baron of Lynn-Regis, lord lieutenant, &c. he was buried here November 16, 1729. The late Thomas Wright, esq. was his eldest son and heir.

There

* Sir Robert Wright, of Wangford, knt. was first one of the justices of the common pleas, and after lord-chief justice of the king's bench, in the reign of James II.

There is a separate right of fishing belonging to this manor, with liberty to hunt, hawk, fish, and fowl, in the town, and manors of Kilverstone, notwithstanding the superior liberty of the hundred.

The fines were 2s. an acre, and the eldest son was heir.

The scite contained six acres, and joined to the river, south, and Tunney-lane, west, which leads down from the street, by the west end of the church, to the river. There is also a swan mark now belonging to it.

The advowson was given by Margaret de Caineto, Cheyney, or Cressy, daughter and heiress of William de Caineto, in free alms, to the prior of Butley, in Suffolk, who appropriated it to his house, reserving a vicarage to be presented to by the prior, with a pension of 26s. 8d. payable out of the great tithes, together with the rectory-house, and an acre of land adjoining to it. Thus the great tithes, the sheep-walk, and 24 acres of glebe, came to the priory; and after this the prior, desirous to get the whole into his own hands, came to a perpetual composition with the prior of Coxford, for the moiety of the tithes of his manor.

In 1428 the prior of Butley was taxed for his whole spiritualities here eight marks, and thus it remained till 1497, and then William Disse, vicar here, had an augmentation to his vicarage, but upon complaint that it was not yet endowed according to the statute, it was disappropriated in his successor's time, and so became an absolute rectory again, as it was before its appropriation, and hath remained such ever since.

In

In 1554 the rector pulled down and destroyed the rectory-house, the site of which joined to the west side of the church-yard, and from that time there hath been no parsonage-house: there are about 24 acres glebe, but the sheep-walk of 250 sheep, which belonged to the rectory, was granted off, during the impropriation, for an annual pension of 26s. 8d. a year. It was valued in the king's books at 7l. 14s. 9d. ob. and being sworn of the clear yearly value of 33l. 7s. 8d. it is discharged of first fruits and tenths, though it pays 12d. synodals, beside the archdeacon's procurations. In 1603 here were 60 communicants, and now there are eight houses, and about 50 inhabitants. It paid 43s. 4d. to the tenths, and is now (Blomfield) assessed at 202l. to the land tax.

The church hath a low round tower, and three bells; the nave and north porch are tiled, the chancel thatched, and north aisle leaded. The following inscription is on a marble in the chancel:—*Requiescant sub hoc marmore, reliquiae Thomæ Wright, armigeri, qui plenior virtutum quam dierum mundum vidit et reliquit, 12mo. Aprilis, 1667.*

Here are also monuments to others of this family.—*Katherine Cropley, youngest daughter of sir Charles Harbord, knt. surveyor to Charles I. and second relief of Thomas Wright, esq. late wife of William Cropley, gent. died July 6, 1664, aged 40 years, and 11 months.*

Ann, the eldest daughter of George Vilett, of Pinkney, in the county of Norfolk, esq. who was married to Charles Wright, of Kilverstone, in the said county, esq. the twenty-ninth day of May, anno Domini 1691. She died September 29, 1709, aged 41.

On a grave-stone in the chancel,—*Here lieth interred Charles Wright, esq. a man remarkable for many excellent qualities, a most affectionate husband, an indulgent parent, a sincere friend; his charity was unconfined, his liberality universal; his afflictions were great, his patience greater; he was a conscientious observer of all religious duties, and remarkable zealous for the honor of God and religion. He departed this life in the true faith, and fear of God, in the 64th year of his age, on the 14th day of November, A. D. 1729.*

A grave-stone in the church,—*To Mary Pearson, relict of the Rev. William Pearson, L. L. D. late chancellor of the diocese of York. She was wife of the Rev. John Wright, and died April 9, 1736, ætat. 72.*

By the bounds of this parish is Ringmere-pit, which Mr. Salmon, in his Roman stations in Britain (page 9) takes notice of in these words. “ On the side of this way from Hockam, in East Wretham parish, is a remarkable cavity, called Ringmere-pit, it is in form of an amphitheatre, to the bigness of six or seven acres, with an uniform descent on every side to the arena. So exact is its figure, even yet, one cannot help believing it was contrived for show. There was not in the latter end of October a drop of water in it, which the wet summer must have filled, if it ever had been a pond. More of this kind I have heard of hereabouts, but not seen.”

We must own, a stranger, who saw it in 1724, or 1725, (as we suppose Mr. Salmon did) when it was entirely dry, might have been of the same opinion with him, but it is nothing uncommon to those that have been acquainted with it. It is a large cavity indeed, generally full of water, and the ground being sand, the water occasioned that uniform descent; it is supplied with

with land springs from the adjacent hills, which in that extreme dry year ceased running, and so the water shrunk into the sand. It is a very old mere, or large water, as the Saxon name, which it still bears, tells us, *Ringmere* being no more than the round-mere, or water. Mr. Blomfield says he has angled fine perch out of it when he was a school-boy at Thetford, and thought there were good fish in it when he wrote, it being stored, as he was informed, since it was last dry. But this pit is not to compare with that which lies nearer Croxton, and though it is three times as big, was then also dry: this is called Foulmere Pit; the greater part of the fishery belongs to the estate in Croxton, settled on the school and hospital of Thetford, and that of Ringmere to the lord of East Wretham. There are other large pits on these heaths (though not so big as either of the former) that have water in them in winter, but being mostly dried up in summer time, they look very regular to the beholder's eye.

In 1769 the Rev. William Norris was presented to the rectory of Kilverstone, by the crown.

LARLING, LERLING, LURLING, LIRLING, or LARLINGFORD*, is so called from its low situation on the river, upon the ford or biggest passage that any where crosses it; it hath a well-known inn standing by it, and the great post road from London to Norwich passing here, occasions this village to be more known by travellers than such places usually are.

At the time of the Confessor's survey there were two manors; the least was then held by a free-man, and at the Conqueror's time was given to William

I. *William de Warenne* earl

* Vulgarly pronounced Laring-ford.

earl Warren, who enfeofed Hugh in it, it being then of 30s. value. The capital manor, both at the Confessor's and Conqueror's furvey, belonged to Ulketel, and the foc. or leet, and fuperior jurisdiction, belonged at that time to Buckenham-castle, to which this hundred was then appendent; it was always of 40s. value. The town was then a mile long, and a mile broad, and the whole of every one's tenure paid 8d. ob. gelt.

This was afterwards called LARLING, or GONVILE'S MANOR, and went exactly as the capital manor of Rushworth, from the time of Ulketel till 1470, and then it was fettled on Rushworth college, and from that time it continued in the college to its diffolution; it was afterwards granted, as that was, to the earl of Surrey, in 1541, and alienated in 1542, by the king's licence, together with the advowfon, to John Allington, of Westley, in Cambridgeshire, efq. Robert Allington, his fon and heir, fold it in 1570 to Thomas Lovell, gent. and his heirs, at which time it extended into Roudham, Shropham, and Illington: it was held of the crown by knight's fervice, and formerly of the lord Bardolph; he was fucceeded by fir Francis Lovell, knt. who conveyed it to John Langworth and others, and they to Robert Houghton, of Shelton, efq. who left it mortgaged to William Wherewood, efq. he prefented, with the confent of Robert Houghton, of Ranworth, efq. his fon and heir, who was left a minor. In 1682 Charles Houghton, efq. was lord and patron, who mortgaged it to fir Edward Hungerford, and after to Paul Jordrell, efq. About 1273 it was conveyed to Richard Sturgeon, efq. and fince that to the late fir Edmund Bacon, of Garboldifham, bart. who was lord and patron, and prefented in 1735. William Woodley, efq. of Eccles, is now lord and patron.

The

The leet belongs to the hundred, to which this manor paid 2s. quit-rent, and the town 2s. leet-fee, per annum.

The ancient scite, or manor-house, stood in a close by the church, the moat that surrounded it being still to be seen.

The fines are at the lord's will, and the eldest son is heir both in this and Chalkhill manor.

The MANOR of WELHOLM, (or Easthall, as it is sometimes called) was split out of Gonvile's manor about the beginning of the time of Henry III. in the 20th of whose reign Adam de Methelond held it of William Wauncy, who held it of the Bardolphys, and they of the earl Warren, as of his castle at Acre, by the fourth part of a fee. In 1315 Robert de Welholme was lord, and in 1401 John Brusiyerd. In 1439 Oliver Groos, of Sloley, esq. was possessed of two parts of it, which he gave to John Groos, of Irstead, his youngest son. In 1532 Anthony Gurnay, esq. settled the manor on John Tirrell, esq. and others; in the same year sir John and sir Christopher Heydon, knts. settled it on sir Thomas Jermyn, kni. and soon after it extinguished, the whole being manumised*, and the demesnes divided into many parcels, most of which still pay their proportions to the lord of the hundred, for the suit fines which were due from this manor to the hundred.

DENVER, or CHALKHILL MANOR, was given by the Conqueror to the earl Warren, who enfeoffed Hugh in it, whose descendants, the Bardolphys, held it

* Mr. Clark, of Larling, owns the manor-house, called Easthall, and part of the demesnes.

it at the third part of a fee; they granted it to the Denvers, to be held of them; Richard Denver owned it in 1218, and sold the moiety of the advowson, which till then belonged to this manor, to sir Richard de Larling; from the Denvers it came to the Buckenham, of Keteringham, who sold off the demesnes into divers hands, leaving the manor in their heirs, who carried it to the Carrills; they sold it to the Hollands; and in 1598 John Holland, of Wortwell, esq. was seised of it; from this time the manor continued in the Hollands, till sir William Holland sold it to sir Edmund Bacon, of Garboldisham, bart. the late lord.

The church is dedicated to St. Ethelbert, and is a rectory, valued at 10l. 2d. ob. in the king's books, and pays 1l. 1q. yearly tenths, and 12d. synodals; it hath a rectory-house and glebe belonging to it.

The prior of Castle-Acre had two third garbs of the tithe corn of the demesne lands of Denver manor, in this town, which were given to that priory by Osbert de Denver, lord thereof, who afterwards gave them the land, called Osborn's-Haugh, in Shipdham, in exchange for the said tithes.

The prior of the canons at Thetford had lands in this parish, which in 1428 were taxed at 10s. but of whose gift we do not find.

In 1603 there were nine-two communicants, and now (Blomfield) there are about twenty-two dwelling-houses, and 150 communicants. It paid 58s. 4d. to the tenths, and is now assessed at 280l. 10s. to the land tax.

The

The church and chancel are thatched, the tower is square, and hath three bells, on which are inscriptions.

There is a stone for Thomas Caton. gent. who died Nov. 28, 1712, aged 37, on which are his arms.

Another stone is laid over Sarah, wife of John Brett, who died Sept. 25, 1660.

There are three stones in the chancel, robbed of their brasses.

In 1774 the Rev. James Parson was presented to the rectory of Larling by William Woodley, esq. of Eccles.

ROCKLAND, or ROCKLAND-TOFT. Rokelunt, Rochelunt, or Rockland, as it is now called, signifies the hilly-land, which answers very well to the situation of these parishes, as well as Rockland in Henstead hundred, which is situated on the declivity of a hill, joining to a large marsh, through which the river Yare passes in its course to Yarmouth. That this place was of special note in early times, is evident from its being the residence of the deans of so large a deanry as this, having no less than three parishes within its own bounds, besides thirty other rectors and vicars under its jurisdiction, it containing all the parishes in Guiltcross and Shropham hundreds.

The parishes here are called St. Andrew's, All Saints, and St. Peter's, the two first of which were consolidated in 1692; the church of St. Andrew falling into decay, and standing not a furlong eastward from All Saints, was suffered to dilapidate;

the tower is square, and is still standing; its three bells being stolen out of it some years since, were never heard of,

This town is called, to distinguish it from the other Rockland, Rockland Tofts, and St. Andrew's parish, is often named in evidences, about the time of Edward III. Toft, without any other addition: here is a meeting of people on Midsummer-Day, in the nature of a small country fair, which they call The Guild, the remains, without doubt, of the guild of St. John the Baptist, which was held in St. Peter's church, before the Reformation.

The parishes of All Saints, and St. Andrew, are assessed together at 518l. 15s. to the land tax, as in Shropham hundred, and the parish of St. Peter, by itself at 230l. as in Wayland hundred, though we do not find it ever said to be in that hundred till about 120 years since, at which time it was laid to Wayland; and the constables and surveyors are the same with Little Ellingham, their presentments running, Ellingham Parva, cum Rockland-Tofts St. Peter. The whole was taxed together in Shropham hundred to the tenths, to which it paid 4l. 3s. 4d. there are now (Blomfield) about 300 inhabitants.

This and all the other deanries were in the bishop's collation, and had peculiar seals appropriated to them, several of which we have seen, but never met with that of this deanry.

TOFT, or ROCKLAND ST. ANDREW'S rectory, was valued in the king's books at 5l. 14s. 4d. and is called Rockland Major in many evidences; it paid 2s. synodals, and 6s. 8d. procurations. The canons of Thetford had temporal rents here taxed at 20s. ob. and

and the prior of Buckenham's temporals were taxed at 4s. 10d.

ROCKLAND ALL SAINTS rectory was valued in the king's books at 5l. 6s. 8d. and sworn, together with St. Andrew's, of the clear yearly value of 44l. so that it is capable of augmentation; it paid 12d. synodals, and the prior of Castle Acre had a portion of tithes, which was taxed at 10s. and was given with their portion in Rockland St. Peter. This parish is sometimes called Rockland Minor, or the Lesser Rockland, in opposition to St. Andrew's parish, which is called Rockland Major, or the Greater Rockland.

This church hath a square tower and three bells; the nave, south porch, and chancel, are thatched: there is no inscription in it, save one on a modern stone, for a Mr. Salter.

In 1750 the Rev. Francis Wotton was presented to the united rectories of Rockland All Saints and St. Andrew, by Mrs. Mary Hutcheson.

ROCKLAND ST. PETER'S rectory was valued at 4l. 16s. 5d. ob. in the king's books, and being sworn of the clear yearly value of 29l. 18s. 8d. is capable of augmentation; it pays 12d. synodals. The prior of Castle Acre had a portion of tithes taxed at two marks, and other temporals, taxed at 20s. all which were given by John de Kitestone's, or Caston's, father, and confirmed by himself, namely, two tithe sheaves out of three of all his demesnes in Rockland, and the third tithe sheaf of his demesnes in Shipdham, and above fourteen acres of land in Rockland.

In 1349, Nov. 24, the church of St. Peter at Rockland Tofts, belonging to the abbess of Mar-

ham, was appropriated to that house by the consent and approbation of the pope and the bishop*, on condition that the bishop, or his successors, at the church's vacancy, should ordain a vicarage, for which the vicar should be taxed at six marks, the vicars being always to be nominated by the bishop, to the abbess, who was obliged to present them, and also to pay a pension of half a mark a year to the bishop, in lieu of the portion of his first-fruits, for the great tithes, which ceased upon the appropriation; the vicar was to have a house, and to be endowed to the value of twelve marks per ann. at least, and the abbess was taxed at eight marks for the rectory.

The Rev. Leonard James, rector, was barbarously murdered by Mr. Lowe, his curate, with his wife's consent, on Twelfth-night, anno 1608, for which the first was hanged, and the last burned. There was a book printed at London for Robert Bonain, anno 1609, 'of the bloody murder of master James, minister at Rockland, in Norfolk, committed by Mr. Lowe, his curate, and consented to by his wife, for which they were both executed.'

The church of St. Peter, which is the deanry church, hath nothing remarkable in it; the north porch was built about 1619, as a broken inscription informs us. The tower is octangular, and hath three bells in it; the chancel is ruined, a small part of which was re-built by a late rector to officiate in.

This parish of Rockland St. Peter lies in the hundred of Wayland,

In

* William (Bateman) bishop of Norwich gave to the nunnery (of Marham) the appropriation, the parish church of St. Peter, in Rockland, in the diocese of Norwich, anno 1349.

In 1768 the Rev. Grigson Heyhoe was presented to this rectory by Jermyn Heyhoe, gent.

There are now only three distinct manors in this town, called Carbonel's, Lady's, Kirkhall Moynes and Gurneys, though there were formerly no less than seven before they were united.

CARBONEL'S MANOR, with the advowson of St. Andrew, belonged to Brode in the Confessor's time, and to William earl Warren in the Conqueror's, of whom Simon held it, the whole town being then above two miles long, one broad, and paid 11d. gelt. In 1194 Baldwin de Rossei, or de Rosseto. held it of the earl Warren at one fee. In 1234 Robert Carbonel was lord. Soon after, 1399, it was divided, and one part, with the advowson, came to the Holditch's, who presented till 1571, and afterwards sold it to sir Ralph Chamberlain, knt. reserving two or three turns to the family; the other part went to William de Narburgh, whose daughter, Ella, married Thomas Shouldham, and had a son by him of his father's name, but he did not inherit, the manor being given by his mother to Henry Spelman, her second husband, and his heirs. In 1606 Francis Spelman, esq. was lord of Carbonel's, in Rockland, in which family it hath continued, it being owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Spelman, of London,

The leet belongs to the hundred. the fine is at the lord's will, and the eldest son is heir.

KIRKHALL MOYNES, and GURNEY'S, were distinct manors at first, though they have been long united; the first was held by Eudo the sewer, of whom Richard held it; and the second by Ringull, in the Confessor's time, and by Roger Fitz-Renard at the Conqueror's

Conqueror's survey: to Moyne's manor the advowson of All Saints was appendent, and belonged to John le Moyne, who held it at three quarters of a fee of William Blaumister, and he of the earl Warren, in the time of Henry III. In 1282 sir John le Moyne, of Weston, in Cambridgeshire, had this manor and advowson settled on him, whose heirs in 1285 had view of frank-pledge, and assize of bread and ale allowed here. It afterwards went by marriage to sir John de Brokesbourne, and sir John de Sutton, of Wivenhoe, knt. and from them passed into many families. In 1546 John Berney settled his manor, called Barrie's, alias Gurney's, on Ralph Chamberlain, esq. who afterwards purchased one part of Carbonel's manor, and the advowson of St. Andrew's; and in 1639 sir Richard Berney, bart. was owner, in whose family they continued till Richard Berney, esq. (who died in 1695, at Reedham) mortgaged them, and Mrs. Ann Martell, widow, presented under the mortgage; in 1709 they were ordered by decree in Chancery to be sold to pay Mr. Berney's debts, and were sold accordingly to colonel Windham, of Earsham, and since owned by Joseph Windham-Ash, esq.

The leet belongs to the hundred, the fine is at the lord's will, and the eldest son is heir.

Kirkhall before the union belonged to the family surnamed de Castleton, Cakeston, or Caston, and was originally a part of the manor of Caston-Hall that extended into this town, though it was taken as a separate manor very early.

In 1373 Catherine, widow of sir John de Caston, conveyed Kirkhall manor to Thomas Caus, of Hockham, and his heirs; and in 1387 William Fastolf released all his right in the manor to Richard Caus,
in

in whose family it continued, though sometimes in trustees hands, till it was united to Moyne's.

BARRY'S MANOR belonged to a family surnamed de Rockland, and was split out of Moyne's manor for Maud de Rockland, and her feoffees held it in the time of Henry III. of John le Moyne, at a quarter of a fee. In the time of Edward I. it was divided, and Richard Barry had one part, whose daughter, Joan, married sir Robert de Caſton; after that it fell to John de Caſton, whose daughters, Elizabeth, married to Robert Carbonel, and Alice, to William Faſtolf, in the time of Edward III. when this part was joined to Carbonel's manor; the other part continued in the Rocklands. In 1338 William de Reedham had it, and it went with the Reedham estate to the Berneys. Not long after (1441) Kirkhall part was united to Kirkhall and Moyne's, with which it continues; but Barry's continued in the Berneys; and in 1527 John Berney, eſq. died ſeiſed; after which, about 1546, it was united to Kirkhall.

MORTIMER'S MANOR was held by Conſtantine de Mortimer in the time of Henry III. at one fee of the earl Warren, who held it of the king in capite; it continued in that family a long time, and paſſed as their manor of Attleburgh did; in 1327 Conſtantine de Mortimer, eſq. had a charter for free-warren in his lordſhip; it deſcended with Scoulton to ſir John Fitz-Ralph, knt. who married Margery, grand daughter and co-heireſs of ſir Robert Mortimer, who had iſſue John Fitz-Ralph, eſq. whose ſon, John, had Elizabeth, his co-heireſs, who enjoyed it in fee-ſimple after her grandfather's death, with Ellingham, &c. they being ſettled by her grandfather on her, to perform his laſt will, and from this time it was joined to Kirkhall and Moyne's.

LADY'S MANOR at the survey was by held Payne, or Pagan, of Roger Bigot; and in 1218 by Richard Fitz-Roger, at half a fee. Richard Hockham, of Little Hockham, sold it to Henry Pakenham, esq. of Shropham. who in 1445 settled it absolutely on Elizabeth Bigot, his wife, and her heirs. After this it passed through many hands, till William Neele, of Ellingham Parva, in 1524, sold it to Robert Sibbs, of Counston, in Suffolk; and Robert Sibbs, of Hawley, in Suffolk, his son and heir, in 1594, sold it to Edmund Sargent, of Coneweston, who in 1598 sold it to William Musket, of Hawley, in Suffolk, gent. it fell to the share of Henry Blomefield, of Fersfield, gent. who married Ann Musket, a co-heiress; he at his death left it to Henry Blomefield, of Brisingham, gent. his only son, at whose death it went to Style Blomefield, of Blonorton, gent. his eldest son, who dying single, it descended to Mr. Henry Blomefield, of Fersfield, his only brother, who was lord.

The manor-house is dilapidated; its site is still called Lady's, which name it assumed from the lady Bigot, its former owner,

The manors of Causton-Hall, Attleburgh, Mortimer, *cum membris ex parte* Crowshall, Ellingham Parva, Thompson, and Scoulton Newlands, extend into these parishes.

There is a pension of 2s. per ann. paid by the rector of St. Peter's to the duke of Norfolk, it being a perpetual composition for a measure of wheat which Robert de Rockland gave to the monks of Thetford, out of his lands here. (*Dug. Mon. Ang.* tom 1. fol. 665.) There is also a pension of, 4s. per ann. paid to the duke from the rectory of All Saints, and another of 2s. from the rectory of St. Andrew,

Andrew, both being perpetual compositions for the prior of Castle-acre's portions of tythes in those parishes. There is also a rent of 15s. a year paid to the duke from the manor of Kirkhall.

ROUDHAM, ROWDHAM, RUBHAM, RUDEHAM, or **ROODHAM**, takes its name from a remarkable *rode*, or cross, that stood in it, upon the great road leading from Thetford to Norwich. The remaining stones of it were carried thence to Harling, about forty or fifty years ago, by Mr. Wright, who was then lord here. In the Confessor's survey it was held by a freeman of Harold, at one carucate, but at the conquest it was divided into three parts, (besides thirty acres that belonged to the manor of Bridgham). The first was in the Conqueror's hands, the second belonged to William earl Warren, and these two constituted the capital manor called Roudham West-acre. The third was held by Ralph, of Eudo the sewer, and the whole soke, or superior jurisdiction, belonged to Buckenham-castle, as part of the hundred, Lifius, the old owner, continuing his claim at this time against Eudo, who had got it from him by force, or by the Conqueror's gift. This was afterwards called Trusbutt's, or New-hall manor.

ROUDHAM WEST-ACRE MANOR was all in the earl Warren, the king having given him his part, but was divided again, and that part which was the king's was held of the earl, by a family surnamed from the town, till William de Rowdham gave it to the priory of West-acre. The other part, with the advowson, came from the earl Warren to the Bardolphys, and then to the Roseis, or Rosets, and Lambert of Rosei gave his whole land at Roudham to the priory of West-acre; the earl released to that house the service of that fee; and from this time the manor, impropri-

ate rectory, and the advowson of the vicarage, belonged to the priory till its dissolution; and then fell to the crown. In 1546 the king granted it to Thomas Woodhouse, who, the same year, sold it to Francis Lovell, and his heirs; and from that time it hath passed with East Harling, with which it was sold to the Wrights, who were lords, impropiators, and patrons.

The customs of both the manors are, that the eldest son is heir, and the fines are at the lord's will.

The leet belongs to the lord of the hundred, as it did at the time of the conquest.

TRUSBUTT'S, or NEWHALL MANOR, was in the family of the Caungethorps, Cringlethorpes, or Crownthorps, in the time of Henry III. held of Robert de Caſton, of whose family it was purchased, and Robert held it of Hugh Bardolph, and Hugh held it at the third part of a fee of the earl Warren; one half afterwards went to the Trusbuts, but was afterwards rejoined to Newhall. In 1439 William Halys conveyed Newhall, and Trusbutt's manors, to John Windham, esq. In 1539 sir John, and sir Christopher Heydon, knts. conveyed it to sir Thomas Jermyn, knt. It afterwards belonged to the earl of Surrey, who sold it to the Paynes, whose daughter married Brian Holland, and carried these manors to him; and upon his attainder the manor was seised, but it appearing to be settled on John Holland, son of Brian, and heir of Catherine, he enjoyed it, and was lord in 1572, and so continued to 1583, and then sold it to Thomas Lovell, and his heirs, who joined it to the other, with which it now remains.

The

The church here consisted of one aisle only, and a chancel, both which were thatched, having a square tower standing on the south side, which served both as a steeple and porch; it had two bells in it till 1714, and then there was a faculty passed to sell one of them. Some years since, as the workmen were repairing the lead on the top of the tower, one of them blew the ashes carelessly out of his pipe, which fell on the thatch, and not being seen in time, burned the church and chancel, so that the walls only are standing, in a ruinous condition, at this time.

There was only one inscription in the church, which was on a brass plate, placed there—*In memory of John Bringoe, late of Roudham, who died August 14, 1658.*

We find in the registers at Norwich, that in 1460 William Payne, of Roudham, gent. was buried in the chancel. In 1515 William Rammesbury, of Roudham, esq. was buried in the church.

This parish in 1603 had 86 communicants, but the greatest part of it being purchased in, it is much wasted since that time, though there are now (Blomfield) about 120 inhabitants. It paid 2l. 14s. to the tenths, and is valued at 28ol. 10s. to the land-tax.

The rectory of the parish church of St. Andrew, in Roudham, was appropriated to the priory at West-acre, and the priors of that monastery were patrons of the vicarage to the dissolution. It was valued at 4l. 16s. 5d. ob. in the king's books, but being sworn of the clear yearly value of 23l. 2s. ob. it is discharged of first fruits and tenths, but still pays 2s. synodals, besides the archdeacon's procurations. The prior of West-acre was taxed at ten marks for the impropriate rectory,

rectory, and the portion belonging to the abbot of Bury, which was appropriated to the hospital of our Blessed Saviour there, was taxed at 20s.

In 1615 twenty-six persons were buried in this small parish; there were five buried in one day.

The Rev. John Bolders was presented to this vicarage by the late William Crostes, esq. in 1763. Richard Crostes, esq. of West Harling, and representative in parliament for the University of Cambridge, is now lord and patron.

SHROPHAM, SCEREPHAM, SERPEHAM, or SCROPHAM, was a town of more than common note when the hundreds were first appointed, as is evident from its giving name to the hundred; at present it is a common village, not so large by a great deal as many in this hundred are, though it consists of three ancient villages, the two last of which have been so far lost, that they are not so much as known by their original names of Breccles-Parva, and Broadcarr, or Bradcarr.

BRECCLES-PARVA, or LITTLE BRECCLES, at the time of the conquest, was a separate town, belonging to Roger Bigot, having in it nine freemen under him. The manor was worth 10s. a year, and was then in Wayland hundred, but being given to the earl of Arundel by the said Roger, with his daughter Maud, he added it to his hundred of Shropham, which belonged to his castle of Buckenham, and afterwards infeoffed the Breccles, who always held it of the earl of Arundel, at a quarter of a fee, as of his hundred of Shropham. Soon after, in 1402, it belonged to William de Narburgh, whose daughter Ela had it; she first married Thomas Shouldham, and afterwards Henry Spelman, who died seised in 1494. In 1567
it

it belonged to Francis Woodhouse, esq. who sold it to Thomas Shelton, esq. at which time the manor was extinct, the whole being purchased in: it had then a fold-course, and free fishery, and extended into Shropham, Breccles-Magna, and Hockham; it afterwards came to the Barkers: John Barker, esq. the present owner, hath built a seat here, which is the only house in this place.

The church was a rectory, given by Roger Bigot, lord here, to the priory of Thetford, when he founded it, and so it came wholly to that house, to which it was confirmed by Henry II. but it being a very small place, the monks agreed to take a pension of 8s. a year from the rector of Shropham, in lieu of all the tithes. It was annexed to Shropham, and the church was demolished before the time of Edward III. and the parishioners had the parochial chapel* of St. Andrew, in Shropham, which till that time belonged to Broadcar, assigned them for their parish church, Broadcar being then entirely united to Shropham; and this continued single for some time, though not very long, for before 1332 the rectory and chapel was annexed to St. Peter and St. Paul's church, of Shropham, so that we meet with no institutions to either of them. At the first settling the vicarage, part of the land in Little Breccles, which belonged to Thompson college, was to pay all tythes to the college, but upon the last settlement, in 1414, the vicar was to receive all the great and small tythes of Little Breccles, so that the vicar of Shropham is rector of Little Breccles at this time. In 1514, upon the complaint of the parishioners of Little Breccles, in the parish of Shropham,

K

* It stood about a furlong south-west of Shropham church, the site belongs to the vicar, it is still inclosed, and is now called the Old Church-yard.

ham, setting forth, that, since the settlement, the vicar had neglected serving the chapel, contrary to the terms of the consolidation, which notwithstanding the appropriation was still an entire rectory to him, the bishop swore sir Robert Morley, at his institution in 1519, to perform service in it to the parishioners of Little Breccles. This was demolished about the time of Edward VI.

BROADCAR, or BRADCAR, was included in Shropham at the conquest, but was independent of it some time after, and had the parochial chapel of St. Andrew for their church, till it was resigned to the parishioners of Little Breccles, when this was united to Shropham. It belonged to Roger Bigot at the conquest, and to Andrew de Hingham in 1235. It was afterwards added to, and became a part of Pakenham's manor, and was always held of the earls of Arundel, at half a fee, as of their hundred of Shropham, and is that part of Shropham which joins to the river by Snetterton.

The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 8l. 13s. 9d. and being sworn of the clear yearly value of 30l. 2s. 6d. it is discharged of first fruits and tenths, and is capable of augmentation; it pays 2s. synodals, being endowed with the rectory house, and all the glebe-land, except an acre and half, all the great and small tythes of Breccles-Parva, and all other tythes in Broadcar and Shropham, except the tythes of corn and grain, which belong to the impropriation. In 1603 it had 120 communicants, and now (Blomfield) there are about 250 inhabitants. It paid 7l. 13s. 4d. to the tenths, and is now assessed at 610l. 5s.

The prior of the monks at Thetford had divers small pieces of land here, which were taxed at 2s.

The

The abbot of Bury, at the conquest, had a freeman who held thirty acres of him; this was afterwards appropriated to the use of the infirmary of that monastery, and the keeper of it received the profits till the dissolution, and was taxed at 5s.

The temporalities of Bec abbey, and Okebourne priory, were taxed at 8s. 9d. ob.

The prior of Buckenham was taxed at 6s. ob. for his temporalities, which were small rents issuing out of divers lands in this town, paid to the priory manor of Buckenham, of which they were held.

In 1398 the master and fellows of St. Martin's college at Thomeston (or Tomson) obtained a bull from pope Boniface, to appropriate the church of St. Peter, at Shropham, together with the chapel of St. Andrew, thereto annexed, to their college for ever, on condition there should be a vicarage ordained by the bishop of Norwich, which should be settled by him and his successors to their pleasure and liking, provided that the patronage of the vicarage should belong to the master and brethren of the said college, and accordingly the master and fellows of Thomeston college presented all the following vicars, till the dissolution. In 1410 Alexander bishop of Norwich, by virtue of the power reserved in the bull of pope Boniface IX. and because bishop Henry Le-Despencer, his predecessor, who consented to the appropriation, had appointed no further about the vicarage, but that it should be worth twenty marks a year, besides the vicar's dwelling in the rectory-house, further declared, and settled the vicarage in the most ample manner.

The mayor and commonalty of the city of Norwich have presented ever since June 19, 1574, and are now patrons.

This church is a good building, having a square tower, and five bells. On a brass plate is this:—*Hic jacet Agnes Beny.*

On an old seat you may read this:—*Pray for the wyllfare of Thomas Beny, and Katherine his wyffe, anno Domini millimo cccccxxviii.*

They seated the church at this time, and made the screens between the church and chancel, and those between the north aisle and the chapel of St. Catherine, at the east end of it. The chancel was glazed about 1380.

On three marbles in the chancel,—*Hic positus est Jacobus Barker, armigeri, (filius unicus et hæres Johannis Barker, de Thorndon, in com. Suff. gent.) obiit 15^o die Feb. anno Domini, 1718, ætatis suæ 58.*

Mary, late wife of George Le-Hunt, of New Buckenham, gent. died June 30, 1721, aged 51 years.

John Hart, gent. died March 2, 1711, ætat. 67.

There remain in the windows the arms of Coggeshall, and Pakenham, also of Murray, and Berton.

BRETON'S, or PAKENHAM'S MANOR, belonged at the Confessor's survey to Anaut, and to earl Hugh at the Conqueror's, of whom Richard de Vernon then held it; it was worth 3l. in Anaut's time, afterwards 4l. The whole of Shropham, was then above two miles long, and one broad, and paid 18d. gelt. The superior

rior jurisdiction belonged then to the hundred, the lord of which hath the leet, and it extended into Snetterton, as it now does.

The first lord that we meet with after the conquest was Richard de Kankv. In 1230 Ralph de Jerne-muth conveyed it to Richard Le Presture. In 1308 John Le Veyle, of Barningham, granted it to Peter Le Breton, of Shropham; it extended then into Snetterton, Wilby, Hargham, Larling, Brettenham, Illington, Rockland, and Stow-Bedon. After this it divided, but in 1367 Henry de Breton was lord, who this year left it to his two sisters, his heiresses, Lettice, and Agnes, whose son and heir, Henry de Pakenham, inherited her moiety; it was then held as parcel of Tatefshale barony. Lettice married John Herring, of Thompson, whose son and heir, John Herring, was lord of his part in 1393.

About 1408 Henry Pakenham, esq. who lived at Shropham, in his manor-house called Pakenham-hall, became heir to Henry Herring, of Thompson, clerk, and so the whole of this part was joined in him. The other parts of the half fee, which was divided in 1345, were held in 1442 by the heirs of Henry Breton, Roger Caus, &c.

Robert Pakenham, of Shropham, esq. died in 1463, and was buried, according to his will, in the chapel of St. Catherine, at the east end of the north aisle of St. Peter's church, in Shropham. He had large possessions in Norfolk, and Staffordshire, and left two daughters, his heiresses. Elizabeth married John Sturges, senior, and had the moiety of this manor in her right, and purchased the other moiety of Ann Dobbes, her sister, to whom she sold her moiety of Garboldisham. In 1558 Philip Appleyard had it,

and not long after it was united to Broadcar, with which it still continues.

BROADCAR, BRADEKER, or BRADCAR, was a distinct manor belonging to Aluric in the Confessor's, and to Gilbert the Archer in the Conqueror's time, it being worth 30s. and afterwards 40; the soke belonged to the hundred. In 1235 Andrew de Hingham held Broadcar at half a fee, as part of the fees of Roger Bigot, which he gave to the earl of Arundel. This family obtained a charter of free-warren, and had view of frankpledge, and assize of bread and ale, allowed him in this manor. In 1295 Andrew de Hingham released to Ralph de Coggeshale the manor of Broadcar, together with the advowson of Shropham church. Sir Henry de Coggeshale, knt. &c. sold the advowsons of the church and chapel annexed, together with the manor of Broadcar, in Shropham, to sir Thomas Sharde Lowe, knt. and his trustees, who sold him estates in Essex, by way of exchange. In 1391 Richard earl of Arundel and Surrey, chief lord of the fee of Broadcar manor, for 20l. granted licence to John Methwold, &c. the trustees and feoffees of sir Thomas Sharde Lowe, knt. to settle this manor, with the advowsons and appurtenances then held of him, as of his manor of Hockham, upon Alexander master of Thompson college, and the fellows there, and their successors for ever, on condition, that during the life of Philippa, the earl's wife, the college should pay her 20s. at every vacancy, as a relief, in lieu of all services. This is dated at Castle-acre, in the earl's castle there, the 10th day of June, in the year aforesaid; and in 1394 the trustees settled them on the college, where they continued to its dissolution, and were granted in 1540 to sir Edmund Knevet, knt. together with the whole revenues of the college; and in 1541 he had licence to sell Broadcar, the rectory, and the advowson of the vicarage,

vicarage, to John Flowerdew, and his heirs. who in 1545 fold them to Edward Billingham; he in 1546 to Thomas Clere; and he in 1547 to sir Anthony Heveningham, whose son, sir Anthony Heveningham, knt. fold them to the mayor and commonalty of the city of Norwich, who are now lords, impropiators, and patrons.

MUDIGWELL, or MUDINGWELL'S MANOR, was owned by Eudo the sewer, of whom Rowland held it at the survey; it had been worth 60s. but was fallen to 37s. it was held of the hundred. In 1198 Julian and Emma, daughters of Richard de Broadcar, fold it to Wimer de Shropham,. In 1279 Philip de Mudigwell, of Shropham, renewed the rental, and after this it was much divided; the chief part, however, continued to be a manor, and in 1341 Henry Mudingwell was lord. In 1385 Robert de Aileham conveyed it to sir Miles Stapleton, and sir Roger de Boys, knts. In 1506 John Dade, of Witton, in Norfolk, died seised of Mudingwell manor, in Shropham. In 1561 John Wade, gent. fold this manor to sir Thomas and sir William Woodhouse, knts. since which time it hath been divided into so many parcels that it is now extinguished.

In 1753 the Rev. John Standerwick was presented to the vicarage of Shropham by the corporation of Norwich.

Shropham is the seat of John Barker, esq. late lieutenant-colonel of the West Norfolk regiment of militia.

SNETTERTON, SNYTTERTON, SNETRETUNA, SNISTERTUNA, or SNISTERTON, is a village lying between Hargham and Larling, and had in it two pa-

risb churches, one dedicated to All Saints, and the other to St. Andrew the Apostle, which is now down, and the ruins with difficulty found in the Hall-yard.

The church of All Saints, the present parish, is a good building, having a nave, north aisle, north porch, south porch, and chancel, leaded, a square steeple, and four bells.

In the nave, on a small brass in a feat,
Orate pro anima Cecilie Bokynham filie
Georgii Bokynham, et Margarete uxoris sue.

Over the rood is a defaced painting of the Last Day. The windows contain the history of the Revelations, with the Apostles, each having a sentence of the Creed in a label from his mouth.

The east window of the north aisle is filled with angels, supporting the arms of Morley, impaling quarterly De-la-Pole, and Wingfield; Bokenham, &c.

Other windows in the north aisle have the history of the creation, of Christ's baptism, of St. Christopher, &c. with the legends in labels.

In the chancel are many disrobed stones of the Bokenhams; on one are the arms of that name.

Two inscriptions are preserved by Mr. Weaver, one of which is,—*Orate pro anima Georgii Bokenham, armigeri, de Sniflerton, filij et heredis Johannis Bokenham, qui obiit xxi^o die Octobris, anno Dni. mccccxxiii, cujus anime propicietur : : : :*

In

In the east chancel window,— : : : : *Aia: Mri: Roberti Spylman, et amicor suor* : : : : 1450.

In the north chancel window the cup and wafer in a glory, with Spylman's arms over it, and this underneath:—*Magister Robertus Spylman confidit in Domino.*

This Robert in 1446 was instituted rector, at the presentation of Edmund Bokenham, of Snetterton, esq. and about 1450 he new glazed the chancel windows with beautiful painted glass, when the church windows were glazed by the parishioners, and the north aisle windows by the lord.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 12l. 17s. 1d. and pays 1l. 5s. 8d. ob. yearly tenths; it hath a good rectory-house* joining to the south side of the church-yard, with a convenient glebe belonging to it of sixty acres.

On June 3, 1435, the church of St. Andrew, in Snetterton, was consolidated to the church of All Saints there, at the request of Edmund Bokenham, then patron of both, and of Thomas de Bosvyle, rector of both; and being thus joined about the time of Henry VIII, the church was pulled down. At the time of Norwich Doomsday Hugh de Kywesse, or Kinesse, was patron, and the rector had a house and ten acres of land. This advowson was purchased by sir Hugh de Bokenham of Ralph de Kinesse.

A guild-

* In 1267 Thomas de Ingaldesthorp, rector, purchased a messuage and twelve acres of land, after the death of Ralph Corde, rector of St. Andrew's, and settled it on his successors for ever. He was afterwards dean of St. Paul's, and bishop of Rochester, and died in 1291.

A guild-hall stood on the other side of the road, against the end of the chancel, which was dissolved in the year 1548, and the hall and four acres of land thereto belonging came to the crown, and there continued till queen Elizabeth, by letters patent, dated Jan. 26, 1569, granted it to Nicasie Yettswert, esq. and Partholomew Brokesby, and their heirs, to be held of her manor of East Greenwich, in free soccage, by fealty only, and not in capite, without any annual payment whatever; afterwards it was sold several times, before the lord purchased it and pulled it down.

In 1528 the prior of Buckenham was taxed at 3s. 10d. ob. for his temporalities in this town, which were divers small pieces of land given to their house by the Bokenhams. It paid to the tenths 3l. 10s. is now assessed to the king's tax at 420l. and hath about 200 inhabitants.—*Blomfield.*

Snetterton, in the Confessor's time, was two towns, the south part of it, with All Saints church, was known by the present name, but the north part, with St. Andrew's church thereto belonging, was then called Asselby, or Ashby, and continued that distinction at the Conqueror's survey, and some time after. Snetterton part was owned by Ailwin in the Confessor's time, and by Roger Bigot in the Conqueror's, of whom Ralph, brother of Ailwin, then held it, the manor being worth 20s. The whole of Snetterton and Ashby was two miles long, and one broad, and paid 17d. 1q. Dane-gelt. Ashby part was held by earl Ralph in the Confessor's days, and by him forfeited to the crown; the Conqueror committed it to earl Godric's care, at which time it was of the same value as Snetterton. These two parts afterwards became four manors, Oldhall, Newhall, Carhall, and Grimes's, the

the customs of which are, that the fines are at the lord's will, and the eldest son is heir; they have no leet belonging to them, but it always did, as it now doth, belong to the lord of the hundred, to whom they pay a leet-fee of 2s. 4d.

The MANOR of OLD-HALL was part of Snetterton at the conquest, Ailwin was lord of it in the Confessor's time, and Ralph, his brother, held it at the survey of Roger Bigot, who enfeoffed William de Albany in it, upon his marrying his daughter, Maud, of whom Richard de Snetterton, the descendent of Ralph, held it; he was succeeded by Hugh, (first surnamed Rufus, or the Red, and afterwards de Buckenham, and sometimes de Snetterton) his son, whose son, William de Snetterton, alias de Buckenham, married one of the daughters and co-heiresses of sir Benedict de Angerville, lord of West Newton, West Harling, and of Kerhall, in Snetterton, all which came to the said William, and Nicholas de Beaufo, who married the other heiress. In this family of Buckenham, or Bokenham, Snetterton passed from father to son, till Edmund de Bokenham died at Norwich, in 1479, without issue, and George, son of John Bokenham, esq. of Livermore, his cousin, was to be his heir. From him this estate descended lineally to Thomas Bokenham, esq. who died Dec. 9, 1535, seised of all these manors, leaving John his son and heir, then above one year old, and was buried in the Temple church, with this inscription:—
Hic jacet Thomas Bokynham, armiger, filius et hæres Georgij Bokynham, nuper de Snitherton, in com: Norfolk, armigeri, et Margarette uxoris ejus, filie et heredis, Francisci Heath, arm: qui quidem Thomas obiit 19^o die Decembris, anno Dni: 1535, et anno regni regis Henrici Octavi, viceffimo Septimo, cujus animæ propicietur Deus, Amen.

John Bokenham, of Snetterton, esq. the last heir male of this family, was born Aug. 29, 1534; he married Lucy, daughter of sir Clement Heigham, of Barrow, in Suffolk, knt. who after his death married again to Francis Stonard, gent. and died Aug. 1, 1551, leaving the manors of Oldhall, Newhall, and Carrhall in Snetterton, and the advowsons, the manors of Thelvetham, and Livermere, and the advowsons &c. to Dorothy Bokenham, his only sister and heiress, then 17 years old, who married Thomas Carrill, of Suffex, esq. son of sir John Carrill, knt. attorney of the Duchy of Lancaster, and died June 7, 1560; Thomas Carrill, her husband, died Nov. 21, 1563, leaving sir John Carrill, of Warnham, in Suffex, knt. their son and heir, who in 1577 had livery of Oldhall, Newhall, Carrhall, and Livermere, &c. to him and his heirs; and in the year 1598, Nov. 20, he sold Snetterton to Ralph Hare, esq. brother and heir of that Nicholas who built Stow manor-house; he settled it on his nephew, Ralph, afterwards sir Ralph Hare, knt. who kept his first court Jan. 10, 1604, and was father of sir John Hare, of Stow-Bardolph, knt. who by his will, dated Dec. 21, 1635, gave the manors and estate here (after the death of Elizabeth, his wife, on whom it was settled for life) to John Hare, his second son, who married Susan, daughter and co-heiress of John Walpole, of Broomsthorpe, gent. and enjoyed it to his death, in 1689, and then left it to John Hare, gent. his son, who was afterwards Richmond Herald, and a very ingenious antiquary; he died about 1720, without issue, and left his estate to Mrs. Ann Hare, his sister, who kept her first court in 1721, and died in 1724, leaving it to Catherine and Susan, daughters of Philip, son of Edmund Bedingfield, esq. of Broomsthorpe, in Gallow hundred, by Elizabeth Hare, her only sister; and they

they in 1725 conveyed the manors, advowson, and estate, to Mr. Thomas Goddard, of Snetterton.

PARISH'S, or GRIMES'S MANOR, was made up of several parts, one part was taken out of Kerhall before 1195, when Robert Mortimer released it to John L'Estrange; another part was taken out of Newhall manor, in the time of Henry III. the whole being then held by Hugh Doraunt, of Snetterton, by the twentieth part of a fee. In 1350 Thomas Doraunt, of Snetterton, chaplain, sold it to Richard Paris, of Hargham, from whom it took the name of Parish's. It afterwards belonged to the Grimes's, and was sold by them to the Debneys, who sold it to Mr. Robert Smith, of Carleton-Rode, who held the manor of Grimes, alias Paris, alias Parish, in Snetterton, Roudham, Eccles, Illington, Harling, Larling, and Bridgham, of sir Ralph Hare, knt. as of his manors of Oldhall, Newhall, and Carhall. His grandson, Robert Smith, sold the manor to sir John Hare, who gave it by will to Thomas, his youngest son, in tail, who cut off the entail, and sold it to his brother, Nicholas Hare, of Haigham, esq. in whose family it still continues, Hugh Hare, of Hargham, esq. being now lord.

The MANOR of KERHALL, or CARRILL, was included in the Snetterton part at the conquest, and went with Oldhall manor, till the feoffment of that in Richard de Snetterton, from which time it remained in the Albanys, who in the time of Henry I. enfeoffed the Angerviles, with whose daughters and heiresses it went equally to the Bokenhams, lords of Oldhall, and the Beaufos, with whose heiress one moiety went to the Bardwells, and continued in that family till sir William Bardwell, knt. conveyed his manor of Snetterton, which Margery, the wife of sir John

John de Tudenham. knt. held for life, to Hugh Bokenham. and his heirs, and so it became joined to the manor of Oldhall, with which it hath passed ever since, and the said Hugh conveyed his manor of West Harling to the said William, in exchange.

NEWHALL, or ASHBY MANOR, belonged to the crown till it was divided, and one part given to the bishop of Norwich, who infeoffed it in the Roofes, to hold it of the bishop at a quarter of a fee, as parcel of his barony; and the other part, with the advowson of St. Andrew's, belonged to the Bigots, who gave it to the Albanys; they enfeoffed sir John Straunge, knt. who enfeoffed the Kerfalls, Kyneldeles, or Kinesles, and Jeffery de Kynewesdele, son of sir Hugh Kinesle, divided it into three, or more parts; the advowson and half the manor he sold to sir Hugh de Bokenham, father of sir Ralph, who joined it to Oldhall. Another part became part of Paris's manor, and a third part, called Ashby Closes, continued in the family some time; but was afterwards sold by Thomas le Hastelen, of Ashby, in 1317, to Robert de Stokes, clerk: this was purchased by the Bokenhams in the time of Henry VIII. and joined to their manors, and being held of the bishop, was taken with the other revenues of his barony, and so became held of the crown. In 1665 it paid a castle-guard rent of 1s. 9d. a year to the king, that being the old rent that the whole manor used to pay the bishop, towards the guard of Norwich castle, and was laid on this part at the division of the manor. That part which always went by the name of Newhall belonged, to the Roofes, and was purchased by the Bokenhams about 1425, and joined to their other manors.

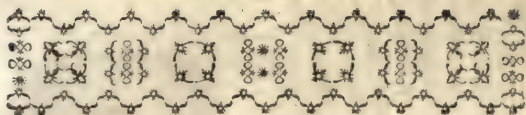
There

There was a family surnamed de Ashby, that lived and had a good estate in Ashby, in Snetterton, in the time of Edward III.

The Gonviles had many lands, tenements, villains, and services, in this town, which belonged to their manor in Larling.

There was also a part of Pakenham's manor, in Shropham, which extended hither, and hath passed with that manor from the conquest to this present time; it then contained forty acres, and belonged to earl Hugh, and now it is owned by the city of Norwich, as that manor is, and is taxed at 9l. per ann.

In 1772 the Rev. Combe Miller was presented to the united rectories of Snetterton St. Andrew, and All Saints, by the right honorable the earl of Albemarle.



T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
N O R F O L K.

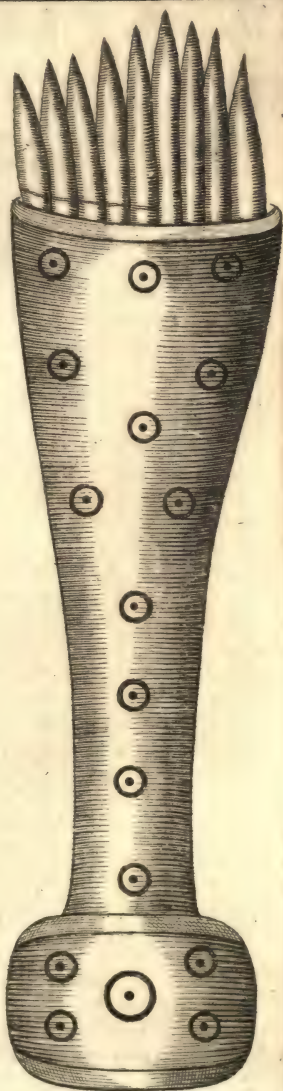
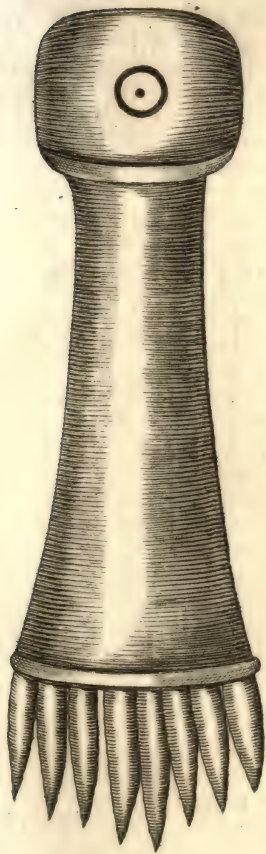
T H E T F O R D.

THE history of the rise and progress of cities, venerable for their antiquity, or eminent for military exploits, feeds the mind of man with the most pleasing reflections;—among such, none claims our attention more than the ancient Sito-magus, the royal city, as it is called, of the Iceni. Antiquarians have been divided in their sentiments, whether the modern Thetford is the ancient Sito-magus:—But, Peutinger's table seems to have determined the point beyond a doubt; for under the 9th Iter, it is said to have been xxxi M. P. or 31 miles, from Venta Icenorum, generally allowed to have been the modern Caister, near Norwich, and minutely answers to our
L modern

modern computation of the distance between the two places.—See Horsley's Dissertation on Peutinger's table, folio 514.

Dr. Plot's ingenious letter to the right honorable Henry earl of Arlington, prefixed to Blomefield's History of Thetford, in 4to. p. 3. seems to have superseded all those fabulous accounts, with which some embryo-antiquarians have amused themselves and others, with regard to the true name of this city. He has critically observed, that almost all the towns situated on the conflux of rivers end in magus; and have, for the most part, been fortified in the fordable places.—The propriety of his judgment is evident with regard to this place, since there are still visible traces of two fortresses, one at each fordable end of this town. The name of Sito-magus, therefore, as he justly observes, seems to have been given it, to have perpetuated the residence of the ancient Sitones, here; a famous people in Germany, taken notice of by Tacitus. The latter part, magus, was most probably added to point out the propriety of it, being fortified, which, according to Cluverius, in the old Celtick language, imports the same as the Latin word, *vadum*, a ford. As the Druids had the chief management of all public affairs, the religion of the Gauls contains the best part of their history; and as the language of Bretaigne, in France, is supposed to be the remains of the Celtick, a proper clue is opened to us, into the darkest times of this ancient city.—That the Iceni should fortify it, is agreeable to the martial genius of that people, who are said to have neglected all civil arts, in order to excel in war. In Richard of Westminster's History of Britain, as published by the learned Bertram, in 1757. p. 37, they were counted the most warlike of all the Britons, and Sito-magus was their capital city. The elaborate Horsley makes mention of Sito-magus in his
ninth

AMULETS, hung round the Breasts of the Children, Brittain, Sacrifices.





ninth Iter, and Ravenna in his Chorography of Great Britain, folio 515; all which determines Sito-magus to have been once the metropolis of the Iceni.

Our knowledge of Great Britain before the Roman invasion is very dark and imperfect; but from late discoveries, Sito-magus seems to have claimed an unusual notice, as it was most probably the residence of an Arch-druid priest; for in 1760, on digging under the rampart of the Castle-hill, in order to raise the surface of some adjoining meadows, two very curious bones were discovered, three feet at least under the foundation of the rampart: they were very artfully buried in a large square bed of dry sand, and placed by each other's side, in the very centre of the bed. We have inserted a drawing of them for the amusement of the reader. In the History of Thetford, published by the late Mr. Worth, p. 13, a very imperfect account is given of them; which, in justice to the judgment of that great antiquarian, Dr. Stukeley, I think it but equity to correct; wherein he is said to have concluded them to have been combs for horses manes. The Romans were too wise a people to have made their combs of such brittle materials, and Dr. Stukeley too learned to have supposed them to have done so; nor would they have been made of such shape. Dr. Stukeley's judgment, therefore, must have either been misunderstood, or misrepresented.—Thus much I owe to the memory of my deceased friend.—It is well known the Romans made their combs of different materials; there is in the possession of the Rev. George Burton, rector of Elveden, in Suffolk, part of a Roman lady's comb, found in the neighbourhood of Thetford; and likewise an *acus crinalis*, or bodkin for the hair, both made of ivory. But the first sight of these bones indicates the use of them; their being found so deep

under the very foundation of the rampart, shews them to have been prior to the time of the Romans invasion of this island. If we may be permitted to dive into the deep mysteries of those dark times, they seem to have been amulets, hung round the neck of the Druid priest; for it is well known, that it was a common practice in the earliest of times to bury with the deceased those things which were the most highly esteemed by him when living. The round hole at the head of each shews they were made use of in a pendulous state, and the fine varnish on the upper side only, confirms this opinion, as the warmth of the breast rendered such a varnish needless on the lower side. At the end of each appears small fingers, as they may be called, eight on one, and nine on the other, which might be designedly fixed on, as the Druids are well known to have dealt in mystic numbers, as well as mystic rites. The wearing of these might be intended to raise in their votaries an higher opinion of human sacrifices, when they saw that the bones, either of men or beasts, were made use of as the principal part of the Arch-druids dress. It may be easily accounted for why this part of the druidical dress may have escaped our notice, as the materials of which it was made were so brittle and perishable. Many bones have been found in the environs of this city, about the same depth under ground; and it is asserted in an account published in the Republic of Letters, vol. 1st. p. 20, that the sacrifice of men and beasts made a principal part of the religion of the Druids; it is not improbable then to suppose, that, in order to heighten the veneration of the sacrifice, these amulets were hung round the neck of the Arch-druid, upon extraordinary occasions, and received additional veneration from the appearance of these mystical fingers, or numbers. The whole of this, we confess, must be conjecture, but it is, if only amusing,

amusing, innocent, and may lead us into enquiries of greater importance.

Of this city under the Romans.—In the earlier time of the Romans possession of this island, this city seems to have retained its ancient name, Sito-magus. Blomefield, History of Thetford, p. 9, seems to think that the ramparts were then made by the Romans, because the Roman road ran through them; but nothing conclusive can be gathered from thence, for by parity of reason, as the Danes succeeded the Romans in the possession of this city, the works of the latter, it is most probable, should deface those of the former; which accounts for the road at present breaking through the Roman intrenchment from the ford. Besides, as will hereafter be observed, the Roman invasions were made on the south part of the island, the Thames, and they do not appear to have been in possession of this part of the island, in a profound peace, long enough to have raised such mighty works; for though they wintered there, that was not a proper season for such operations; therefore, most probably, these were the works of the Danes, and not the Romans.

Of the city under the Saxons.—As Thetford was the metropolis of the East Angles, and flourished greatly under the Saxon government, we will take a cursory view of the origin of the East Angles, and their kings, as far as relates to their possession of this part of the kingdom. Blomefield says, p. 21, the Iceni inhabited that part of Great Britain which the East Angles did under the Saxons. The kingdom of the East Angles comprehended Norfolk, Suffolk, and at some time Cambridge, which Uffa, one of the three principals of the Angles, united into one kingdom in 575, and settled at Sito-magus. The prosperity

and grandeur of this city seems to have been owing to the Saxons making it the metropolis of their kingdom; it was then that its new masters gave it the name of Deodford, or Theodford, (which seems to correspond with our derivation of Sito-magus.) From this time the city increased till A. D. 659, when Higden, in his Polichronicon, lib. 5, p. 239, according to Blomefield, which Trevisa also confirms, says, there was a synod of bishops held under Theodorus at Tetforde. Offa, after the murder of Ethelbert, took possession of the kingdom of the East Angles, and added to it his own; but the Danes soon made a fatal irruption, and from that time Thetford began to decline, till 826, when the Danes put the East Angles upon their guard, and gave them such an alarm, as rather to seek to defend what they had, than to enlarge their territories at the hazard of all: it may then be supposed, these ramparts were raised, and consequently ran through the Roman intrenchments.

Of the city under the Danes.—We have already observed, that the Saxons laid a proper foundation for the Danes to conquer the whole kingdom; this, therefore, seems to have been the most proper time for these mighty works to have been erected, for the Roman invasions were always made in the south part of the kingdom, and therefore it is most natural to suppose the Iceni would guard against their incursions on the land side, which might lay a proper foundation for the subsequent intrenchments of the Danes; and as the Saxons and Danes made their irruptions by sea on the Iceni, it is most probable they held a communication open with the sea for their shipping, and intrenched themselves only on the land side, to secure themselves from surprize, that they might from thence make excursions, as they frequently did, into
the

the very heart of the kingdom, have a safe retreat, and in time unite the whole heptarchy under one king.

The Danes, envious of the happiness of the Britons, fixed on the seat of the East Angles as the most likely place for them to pour in their legions, in order to conquer the whole island, as they might from thence, by a free communication with their shipping, have a constant supply at hand, in case of defeat. In 870, or 871, Ingwar and Hubba plundered and burned Thetford, and martyred king Edmond in the 16th year of his reign. Having wasted great part of the country, Ingwar again returned, and wintered at Thetford, with part of the Danish army. Edmond rallied his forces, and marched against the enemy;—a whole day was spent in this dreadful conflict, near the confines of the city, where many tumuli now mark out the place of action; but Ubba joining Ingwar with ten thousand men, soon determined the fate of Edmond, whom they took prisoner, and shot to death with arrows; they cut off his head, and threw it into an adjacent wood, where, according to the enthusiastic dreams of the time, they made his head, like friar Bacon's brazen head, to deliver an harrangue upon the occasion; but the very recital of these fables disgrace the dignity of history, therefore we only slightly touch them, in order to show how little is to be depended upon the history of those times. This island continued under the government of the Danes, without a king of its own, fifty years, till 878, when Alfred king of Wessex forced Guthrun, the Dane, to sue for peace, and on his submitting to baptism, gave him East Anglia. In 879, Blomefield, p. 37, Athelstane, or Gutrum, and his Danes, came hither, and divided the land amongst them, as Fabian tells us, in his Chronicle: they fixed on the north side of the river, near their encampment, which they looked

upon as their great defence, in case of future attacks ; and this appears to have been the original of the Norfolk part of the town, which from that time continually increased, as the Suffolk decreased, which is now reduced to one parish of about thirty houses only.

Alfred, about 900, divided England into counties, or shires, and those into centuries, wapentakes, hundreds, and tithings ; this he did, because the natives often robbed under colour of the Danes, for he obliged every one in the kingdom to be ranked under some hundred, or tithing ; and if any man was found guilty, and fled, before or after he had given good security for his behaviour, all the inhabitants of that hundred, or tithing, where he dwelt, were put to their fine for his offence ; by this sufficient security was given for the peace of the kingdom, insomuch that, as Malmfbury informs us, golden bracelets were publicly hung up, and no one dared to take them away. At this division the river Ouse, which runs through part of this town, was made the future boundary between the two counties ; that part on the south of the river, belonging to Lackford hundred, in Suffolk ; and the other, on the north side, to Shropham hundred, in Norfolk, as they do now, though in the Confessor's time it was an hundred by itself.

Various were the conflicts with the Danes for the government of this kingdom, till Canute reigned. After this, Thetford recovered its strength, till the time of Edward the Confessor. The reader may judge of its consequence by an extract from the Doomſday-book, from which we learn, that in the hundred of Thetford was St. Mary's church, which archbishop Stigand held, to which four other churches were appendant ; St. Peter's, St. John's, St. Martin's, and St.

St. Margaret's. In the burgh of Thetford were 944 burghesses in the time of king Edward, of whom the king had all the customs.

In the Conqueror's time there were 720 burghesses. The abbot of St. Edmondsbury had one church, and one house, tax free. The abbot of Ely had three churches, and one house, free. Archbishop Stigand had one church, and Roger Bigot one church; hence appears the importance of this town, from its extraordinary growth within thirty years.

The Bishopric.—Upon the conversion of the East-Angles, by Sigebert, an episcopal see was founded at Dunwich, of which Felix, the Burgundian, was the first bishop, who had only two successors before the see was divided into two; one for Suffolk, at Dunwich, the other for Norfolk, at Elmham. William the Conqueror gave the East-Anglian Bishopric to Arfast, his chaplain, and chancellor, who removed his see from Elmham to Thetford. Roger Bigot instituted here a monastery of Cluniack monks, by way of recompence for the removal of the see to Norwich. It gradually declined on this account, though it was the seat of many religious houses. It continued a deanry for several centuries. The case of bishop Nix is well known, who incurred a bill of præmunire for permitting an inhabitant of Thetford to be sued in his consistorial court, in prejudice to the dean and mayor; the former of whom claimed a right, that no one should be drawn in plea into any court Christian, but the dean's: the latter, that in case of such infringement, the party being cited before the mayor, he should fine him 6s. 8d. Upon this plea against the bishop being brought to a hearing, the bishop was cast in a præmunire, and by a sentence in the King's-bench, in 1534, obliged, by way of penalty, as it is said, to purchase

purchase, and set up the glass windows in the chapel at King's college, in Cambridge. Not many years after this, power was vested in the bishop of Norwich, where it now remains. Henry VIII. made this bishopric suffragan to Norwich, who presented two persons to the king for election. The deanry of Thetford contained all the city, with the churches of St. Cuthbert, St. Etheldred, St. Peter, St. Mary, and All Saints, and the two Snarehills, and Santon by Downham, and had peculiar jurisdictions over all the churches and monasteries, except the abbey, and the nunnery; the former claimed exemption for other places where they were concerned from all other spiritual courts, except that of the dean of Thetford.

Thetford Manor.—When William the Conqueror was established on the throne of England, he began early to confer his favours on those who had assisted in advancing him to the royal dignity. Among these, William, first earl Warren, had the castle and manor of Thetford. This earl had very extensive possessions in different parts of the kingdom at the time of making the Doomsday-book. In Norfolk he possessed 139 manors, and near 100 in Essex, Suffolk, Yorkshire, and other counties. After archbishop Stigand's disgrace, it being in the king's hands, he gave it to Arnfast bishop of Thetford, who gave it to his sons. This manor passed through variety of possessors, but chiefly of royal extraction, till Edward VI. granted it to Edward duke of Somerset; and he the same year conveyed it to Richard Fulmerston, esq. On his decease it came to sir Edward Clere, to Frances his widow, and sir Edward Clere, his son and heir, who conveyed it to Thomas Howard, earl of Suffolk, and Henry earl of Northampton, who settled it on trustees, and thus all the manors in this town became united, as they have ever since continued. In 1701 Thomas duke

duke of Norfolk held a court here, and conveyed it to the hon. Philip Howard; his only daughter, Ann, married, in 1762, Robert Edward lord Petre, who in her right is present proprietor.

Halwick Manor.—This manor is, and has been, as above observed, united to Thetford manor, and continues in the same lord, lord Petre. It was settled on the monks of Thetford by Roger Bigot, their founder. They held it on condition of finding two footmen for forty days, when the king went into Wales; and it continued in their possession, when it was taken into the king's hands, and granted to Thomas duke of Norfolk, in exchange for some other manors, in other counties. When the duke was attainted, he was deprived of this, amongst his other manors. Edward VI. granted it to his uncle, Edward duke of Somerset, the duke to Richard Fulmerstone, esq. at whose decease it passed with the Thetford manor.

Of the Town.—On the approach to this town, the many awful ruins of antiquity, still visible, recall to the spectator's mind the once flourishing state of this ancient city. The Suffolk side contains but few houses, yet has received an agreeable addition by a neat brick house at the entrance of the town, in the road from Eldon, built by Mr. Alderman Thompson; by other buildings, and an handsome front to the George inn. By tradition there were several churches and monasteries on the Suffolk side, but time has almost worn out the very remembrance of them. The town, on the Norfolk side, has lately received a great improvement, by judiciously laying open the king's house to the street, by Mr. Cole, deputy recorder, and town-clerk; and by filling the area before the front of the house with flowering shrubs, and erecting an handsome pallisade the whole length of the front, which will
prove

prove a great ornament to that part of the town. The trade of this town has been for some years past rather upon the decline, owing most probably to a neglect of the navigation; but an act for appointing commissioners of the 22d of Charles II. having been lately revived by a new commission of the 24th of his late majesty, there is great reason to hope its trade will soon regain its former vigour, and Thetford again flourish. The tolls of this town were given by Hameline earl Warren, in the reign of Richard I. to Walden abbey. Assizes were held here so early as Henry III. and Richard II.

Queen Elizabeth had a house in this town, which she frequently visited. King James, during the hunting season, spent several years in this ancient burgh, in the house which is now in the possession of Mr. Cole, till a neighbouring farmer, with more rusticity than prudence, affronted the king for riding over his corn; since which it has lost the royal presence; yet it retains marks of royal distinction, in the favorable countenance of his grace the duke of Grafton, (whose elegant seat is about three miles distant from it) who honors them with being the present recorder, and whose patronage and generosity promise them future prosperity.

THE CHURCHES.

The visible ruins of many churches and religious houses bespeak the former splendor of this once famous city. St. Mary's was the principal church in the Confessor's time. When he was deposed, it was given to Arlall, who built the cathedral church on its site. From that time it ceased to be a parochial church, the bishop building Trinity church for that purpose. There were four churches appendant to it.

It is supposed to have stood on the spot where now the free-school stands, and the house for the preacher and master of the hospital.

St. Peter's is one of the four churches that were appendant to *St. Mary's*. It stands on the Norfolk side, and is now the principal church. It passed with it, as Blomefield asserts, p. 77, till Arfast gave it to one of his sons. William, the second earl Warren, gave it to the monks of Lewes, with whom it continued to the dissolution, at which time it was granted to the duke of Norfolk. On account of his attainder, it reverted to the crown, and was given by Edward VI. to the duke of Somerset, of whom it was purchased by Richard Fulmerston, esq. in whose possession it continued till the reign of Philip and Mary, when it was restored to the duke of Norfolk, in whose family it has continued ever since. In 1778 the Rev. Henry Charles Manning, M. B. was admitted to it, and is the present minister.

St John's was seated on the Suffolk side, and granted by John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, to the Austin friars. It was one of the four churches appendant to *St. Mary's*, in the Confessor's time, and was given with that, to bishop Arfast. At the dissolution it was demolished, and the site granted to sir Richard Fulmerston, and sold by his heir to the duke of Norfolk. There are no walls above ground, but the foundations are very visible, close by the road leading to Brandon, on the left hand, between the Canon's-barn and the Red-castle.

St. Martin's.—No traces of this church are to be found, but most probably it was on the Suffolk side, as it was one of the four churches appendant on *St. Mary's*, and was given by Arfast to his son.

St. Margaret's stood on the Suffolk side, as appears from a will of Simon le Goos, in 1533. It was one of the four churches appendant to *St. Mary's*, in the Confessor's time, and remained so in the Conqueror's. Blomefield seems to doubt whether it was given by the bishop's son, or purchased by the bishop of Ely. But as it is acknowledged, that after the erection of that bishopric it belonged to that see, most probably it was given by the bishop's son. In the beginning of Richard III. the parish church was quite dilapidated, and converted into an hospital for lepers, to whose use the church was assigned. The hospital was dissolved, and granted to Richard Fulmerston, sold by sir Edward Clere, and passed with the canon's farm. It stood on the left hand of the Elden road, close by the city ditch.

St. Michael's stood on the Suffolk side, and was demolished before the Reformation. The site belonged to sir Richard Fulmerston, and was sold by sir Edward Clere with the canon's farm, in which it is now included.

St. Mary the Less is the only parish church now standing on the Suffolk side. It was appropriated by Roger Bigot to the monks, and passed from them, on the duke of Norfolk's attainder, to the crown. Edward VI. granted it to Edward duke of Somerset, who sold it to sir Richard Fulmerston, upon whose death the right of donation went with his heirs to sir Edward Clere, who sold it to the duke of Norfolk, in whose hands it has remained ever since. The Rev. Thomas Shelford, rector of North Tuddenham, is present incumbent; and in right of that, master of the school, and hospital.

St. Nicholas's church stood on the Norfolk side of the town, by the way which leads from St. Peter's to the abbey, where the ruined tower still remains, on the left hand side of the street, called St. Nicholas-street. Hugh Bigot gave it to his foundation here. It was parcel of the possessions of the duke of Norfolk, and passed, as the former, to Richard Fulmerston, esq. and sir Edward Clere; and from them to the Howard family, and is at present included in the abbey farm. The church-yard now remains as glebe to the rectory of St. Peter's.

St. Laurence.—The true scite of this church is unknown; but by the will of Simon le Goos, was fixed on the Norfolk side, near Earls-lane. It was given to the canons by their founder, and afterwards to sir Richard Fulmerston, and sold by sir Edward Clere with the canon's farm, to which it now belongs.

St. Etheldred, or St. Audry.—This church was on the Suffolk side of the burgh, and in the presentation of the bishop of Ely. The church was pulled down at the dissolution of monasteries, and the parish joined to St. Mary's. The scite retains the name of St. Audry's church-yard, and is close on the right hand, leading from St. Mary's-close, to the place over against the house, at the corner of the passage leading down to the paper-mills, and has been turned into pasture lands many years.

St. Edmund's.—The traces of it are now lost, but most probably it stood on the Suffolk side, and was demolished at the Reformation.

St. Giles's stood on the left hand, leading from St. Peter's to St. Cuthbert's, facing St. Giles's-lane. It was appropriated to the canons. After various revolutions;

tions the inside was used for a barn, and the yard, with the addition of a pent-house, leased to the landlord of the Bell for a dog-kennel. It is now a wheelwright's shop, in the possession of Mr. John Shening, who has built a neat tenement adjoining to it. At the dissolution it was granted to Richard Fulmerston, and afterwards sold by sir Edmund Clere.

St. Andrew's stood on the Norfolk side; at the dissolution it was united to St. Peter's; the church was then demolished. Sir Richard Fulmerston purchased it of the king in the 32d of Henry VIII. About 1717 the church-yard was converted into a pleasant wilderness by the late Mr. Cocksege, who likewise made a handsome opening in the front of his house across the street, filled it with flowering shrubs, and added an iron gate and pallisades, which are an ornament to that part of the town. It has since been rented of the rector of St. Peter's at 7s. 6d. a year.

St. Cuthbert's is one of the three churches now standing on the Norfolk side, near the cross, called St. Cuthbert's Cross, but in ancient evidences the Grass-market, it being the place where they sold herbs and garden stuff. It was given by king Stephen to William de Warren, earl Warren and Surry, who gave it to the canons. At the dissolution the great tithes passed to sir Richard Fulmerston, and was sold by sir Edward Clere to the Duke of Norfolk, and have remained in the family of the Howard's ever since. The chapel of St. Cuthbert is joined to the south side of the chancel. The Rev. Charles Henry Manning, M. B. is the present incumbent.

Trinity Church was appropriated by earl Warren to the canons, and served by one of them at the time of its dissolution; sir Richard Fulmerston purchased

chased it, and in the 2d of Edward VI. consented to have it united to St. Cuthbert's. The foundation, and two pieces of the steeple, were lately visible in the close belonging to the master of the free-school; it stood on the Suffolk side, and joined to the south side of the cathedral church-yard, and it is conjectured to have been founded by Arlact, bishop of Thetford, and Roger Bigot, the church of St. Mary, as observed, being taken from the parish, and made an episcopal see.

All Saints stood on the Suffolk side, and was granted by the abbot of Bury to the nuns of St. George; at the dissolution it was granted to Richard Fulmerston, esq. and passed with his other lands to the present possessor.

St. George's belonged to the abbot of Bury till it was given to the monks of St. George, who being reduced to great poverty, received this as a benefaction from him. The foundation of it, says Blomefield, p. 93, may be seen within the outward gate of the Place Farm, which is in part walled up on the right hand at the entrance; it was granted at the dissolution to sir Richard Fulmerston, and passed with the place, and is included under that farm; it is mentioned in Doomsday-book to have been given by king Canute, near which the abbot of Bury placed a cell for a few monks; it continued parochial till the erection of the priory by abbot Hugh, and then became the nuns church.

St. Helen's in the time of the Confessor was given to the monks of Lewes; it stood on a hill two miles out of the town, on the road to Santon. At the time of William the Conqueror it belonged to the king's

manor of Methwold; it afterwards belonged to earl Warren, and passed with Methwold manor. It was built on account of a spring near, called St. Helen's, or Holy-well.

St. Mary Magdalen's was a parish church before it was converted into a hospital by John earl Warren, and was confirmed to the monks of Lewes by the bishop of Norwich.

St. Bennet's stood on the Suffolk side; the traces thereof are entirely lost.—*Of the Chapel of the Virgin Mary hereafter.*

The awful ruins of so many consecrated temples, where the honor of the King of Kings hath more immediately dwelt, demand our veneration, and are so many proofs of the great zeal, as well as importance of this once famous city; but our reflection becomes painful, when it calls to our mind, that so many temples of the most high have, through the lukewarmness, or impiety of our fore-fathers, moulded into dust in one city, and become now standing monuments of the abatement of modern zeal, for the preservation of those sacred rights which once pronounced this city more renowned for churches and religious houses, than any one spot of equal size throughout the whole island.

HOSPITALS.

St. Mary's Hospital. It was founded by John de Warren, earl of Surry, who procured the church and chapel of St. Mary Magdalen to be annexed to it, from which it took its name; it stood at some distance from the town, near the road to Norwich. Thomas earl of Lancaster died seized of it in 1360, May 17,
in

in the 3d of Edward VI. (when it was dissolved); it was granted by Letters patent to sir William Termour, to hold as of the king's Duchy of Lancaster. On the 28th of September, in the 3d of Edward VI. sir William released all the premisses to sir Richard Fulmerston, and his heirs, from whom it passed with his other lands to the Norfolk family, and is included in the manors. It stood out of the town, on that piece of land lying at the division of the road leading from the Fleece to Norwich, where the Kilverston road strikes off to the right hand, it being some distance beyond the present lime-kilns; it is still called in evidences Mawdlin-acre. Right before it, at the conjunction of the three roads, stood Magdalen-cross, at which Shropham hundred court was sometimes kept after it was granted to the crown.

St. John Baptist's Hospital is supposed to have been founded by Roger Bigot, and to have stood at the corner of Earl's, or Alice's-lane, against St. Cuthbert's Cross, its church being in the orchard belonging to that house; the dove-house there shews as if it was fixed on part of its round steeple; it was a house of lepers, and as the town increased that way, it is supposed John earl Warren removed it to Magdalen hospital.

The Hospital of the Virgin Mary and St. Julian, commonly called St. Julian's chapel, was founded in the time of Henry I. most likely by that prince; for the advowson of it passed with the lordship to earl Warren, who always presented to it. The hospital-house stood at the bridge-foot; the chapel, which was dedicated to St. Julian, and stood in the yard, is quite demolished, so that its exact scite is not known; it was called St. Julian's Hermitage at the Bridge.

Domus Dei, Maison de Dieu, stood on the Suffolk side, at the very corner of the Canon's-close; the river washed its walls on the north, and the east side fronted the street: it was a very ancient house, and is thought to have been founded by William Rufus; the patronage was in earl Warren. John earl Warren granted it, by his charter, to the prior and canons of Thetford, to find two chaplains to sing for the soul of the first founder of the House of God; also to find sustenance and entertainment for three poor men, during a certain portion of the year, who were to act in all things according to the establishment of the house, in the 22d of Edward III. Henry earl of Lancaster, Derby, and Leicester, steward of England, granted to the priory of the canons of Thetford all the lands, &c. late belonging to the hospital of God's House, except the scite thereof, (which he granted to the friars preachers), the prior, canons, and their successors, to find for ever one house for the entertainment of three poor people, from the feast of the translation of St. Edward until the feast of St. Theodoret, forty weeks; every night was to be given them a loaf of rye, which was to be good, of the weight of two-and-fifty shillings sterling, and one herring, or two eggs instead of the herring, (if the herring could not be easily procured) all which amounts yearly, the bread to seventeen quarters of corn, and the herrings to three thousand and forty; they were likewise to provide three beds, and water for washing their feet.

We cannot pass by this most humane and benevolent institution without some degree of emotion at the reflection, that the want of the zeal of modern times has almost worn out the very remembrance of it. From this short sketch of those primitive times, when religion and charity walked hand in hand,

hand, as sisters, through this happy island, we cannot but bestow a sigh on the loss of such in our country towns, and lament that the metropolis has visibly engrossed almost the charity of the whole nation. The truly generous mind must be deeply affected with the total abolition of these useful charities, rather than a timely reformation of them, according to the wisdom of their founders, whose benevolence and oeconomy were equally instructive. We have seemingly been humbled by variety of trials for these unnatural pretended reformations; the great increase of our poor in our times has almost deadened the hand of charity, and presented us with a melancholy memento of what use even such a mite of charity would now be in one of our populous country towns! What a seasonable relief it would afford to modest penury, and unsuccessful industry? We cannot but admire the anxious care of the truly pious founder of this little charity, who provided only for three poor travellers, yet was as circumspect and minute in his computations and rules, as if he had been providing for the welfare of thousands. The reader is left to judge of the propriety of totally abolishing these useful and extensive charities, (which, as if conscious of their one day becoming the prey of boundless avarice, they usually consecrated to pious uses, with the bitterest imprecations against those who should desecrate them). If charity in its literal sense is understood to cover a multitude of sins, whence could the nation hope for a more general and rational fund of forgiveness, thereby giving fresh vigour to the charitable institutions by a reformation, than by a total abolition of them, and thereby keeping up the only form, instead of power of charity, and extinguishing, as it were, the very name of it.

Let us then, as true Christians, extend our view upon this most interesting subject. What benefit has accrued to the nation from this havoc and destruction amongst religious institutions? a few rapacious sycophants have indeed grown fat upon the spoils of them, while the cries of the poor still incessantly call aloud through the want of them. But, as the learned and pious sir Henry Spelman (see his History of Sacrilege, p. 243) says, about 1615, or 1616, he marked with his compasses a circle of twelve miles, including twenty-four families, whose progenitors had soiled their hands with the spoils of religious houses, and found that these monasteries had flung out their owners, with the names and families, (all of them twice, or thrice, at least, and some of them four, five, or six times, not only by failure of issue, or ordinary sale, but very often by grievous accidents and misfortunes) and particularly mentions the black nuns of St. Gregory's, or St. George's, as one in the family of Clarke's, (instead of Clere's, p. 277). Hence, at this day, we lament the increase of our poor, though our legislature, to their honour, have made ample provision for them; since, at this day, some of our populous towns would rejoice in the benefit of so small a charity as this. That we may consider it in its true light, the reader is desired to reflect, that from this infant charity alone provision would have arisen, since its foundation, for no less than 1299 persons for forty weeks in every year; and as, in round numbers, there are computed to be 8000 parishes within this kingdom, supposing no more than one of this small size in each, no less than 10,392,000 persons would have had a comfortable provision for forty weeks in each year since the foundation.

Of St. Mary's College, in Bailey-end.—There was only one college in this town, dedicated to the honor
of

of the Blessed Virgin, which was first a guild only; at this time, and even to the end, it was sometimes called the guild of St. Mary at Bailey-end. At its dissolution the chapel and college were entirely demolished, and the revenues came to the king, who granted the scite and chapel, called Chapel-yard, and eighty acres of land, to the duke of Norfolk, and by him were forfeited to the crown; they were soon after granted to Richard Fulmerston, esq. and his heirs, who sold that and the *Maison de Dieu* to Nicholas Hood, since which time it hath been private property. It stood near the river, directly behind the common gaol for the borough; there are now no ruins of any account. It is now the property of Mrs. Bidwell, widow of the late Mr. alderman Bidwell.

Of the Friaries. — There were two friaries in this burgh, called in ancient evidences, the friars of the Old, and New House.

The friars of the Old House were Dominicans, or black friars; their situation was on the Suffolk side, in the Canon's Close, as it is now called. It was first the parish church of St. Mary the Great, but by bishop Arfast was made a cathedral of his see; and when it was translated to Norwich, Roger Bigot, who had purchased the church of St. Mary, by way of exchange, of Richard, son of bishop Arfast, (whose inheritance it was) placed Cluniack monks in it, and erected a timber building for their reception; but, upon finding they were incommoded by the too near approach of the burgessees houses, removed it to the Norfolk side, in a pleasant place without the city, where he began a cloister of stone, the area of which is now visible between the church and the river. It was surrendered to king Henry VIII. and was granted

to sir Richard Fulmerston, by the name of the Scite of the Friars Preachers, formerly called the Hospital House of God in Thetford; he left it to his heirs; it descended to sir Edward Clere, who sold it with the Canon's Farm, to which it now belongs.

Of the Augustine, or Austin Friars.—Mendicants, or begging friars of the New House, were instituted at Thetford about 1381, by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster: he built them a church, convent, and cloister, on its south side, on part of the old intrenchments of the Castle-hill; it was turned into an house of lepers, governed by one of their brethren. In the 27th of Henry VIII. it was surrendered into the king's hands, and afterwards granted to sir Richard Fulmerston, and passed as the rest of his lands. This stood on the Norfolk side, by the Market-street, in the inclosure called the Friars Close.

Of the Nunnery.—This monastery was the oldest of any in the town; it was founded by Uvius, the first abbot of Bury, in the time of Canute, in memory of the English and Danes that were slain not far off, in the great battle between Ingwar and Ubba; it was situated just by the church of St. George, which Canute had given to his abbey at Bury, but upon the land that earl Turkil gave to that monastery. In this house the abbot placed a few canons, or monks, who held it as a cell, and officiated in the church of St. George, which was then a parish church: from this time the canons continued here, till at last they were reduced to two, and the revenues being almost dissipated, they requested Hugh abbot of Bury, their patron, that the nuns, who till then lived by the chapel of St. Edmund at Lynn, in Norfolk, might be removed hither. In 1176 the two canons resigned, and the nuns took possession. Hugh by this means became their founder,

founder, and gave them the church of St. George, which he rebuilt, and from a parochial made it their conventual church: he gave them the parishes of St. Benedict and All Saints, with all the other lands the abbots of Bury had in the burgh of Thetford, by means whereof this monastery, with all the lands and revenues, were totally exempt from all jurisdiction of the burgh, and enjoyed the liberties and privileges of St. Edmund, their patron, even to the dissolution. In process of time, (which is the fate of all sublunary things) the nuns seem to have failed in their revenues; for it appears from a curious M. S. in the possession of the right honourable the earl of Cornwallis, intitled the Consuetudinary of the Abbey of Bury, wrote about 1265, that the abbot then granted them weekly thirty-five loaves of bread. At the dissolution the king leased the site and possessions of it to Richard Fulmerston, esq. and in 1540 he had an absolute grant of it, to be held in capite, by knight's service. The old house is now totally abolished, and a new one erected on the spot, and corresponds with a gate in the wall of the garden, now a square field. It is now in the possession of John Buxton, esq. of Shadwell, in Norfolk.

The Priory, or Abbey.—This monastery was first founded on the Suffolk side of the river by Roger Bigot, in the cathedral church-yard, and afterwards removed to another place. In the year 1104 Cluniack monks were introduced into this house by Roger Bigot, who having passed through variety of business in a public character, (too frequently the case when a multiplicity of temporal concerns banishes from the mind all regard to spiritual) he fell under some painful reflections that he had failed in the performance of his duty, and as the enthusiastic zeal of those times atoned for every omission by a pilgrimage

to Jerusalem, he resolved upon one; his steward, Ethbran, a man well spoken of in history, seconded by the advice of his friends, he being well respected himself, judiciously suggested to him, that by so doing he must inevitably be banished his native country and friends, and undertake a voyage attended with great hazard and danger, and that a means might be used equally effectual at home, which was, to lay out the sum such a fruitless voyage would cost him in erecting some charitable institution, whereby he would daily enjoy the sight of his good works, and secure to himself an interest in the prayers of a fraternity whose constant employment it would be to offer up to Heaven the most ardent prayers, both for him and his latest posterity, till time should be no more. Ethbran had no sooner communicated this well concerted plan to his master, than, struck with the propriety of it, he solicited and obtained the king's leave, and began to build cells for the monks round the church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which he procured, with all its appendanges, in exchange with Richard, son of bishop Arfast, whose inheritance it was, and an ancient episcopal see. This exchange was confirmed by Henry; but as all human institutions, in their infancy especially, are very imperfect, it was soon discovered the place he had fixed upon was too circumscribed, by the near approach of the burgesses houses; Bigot, therefore, made application to William de Albin, one of the king's council, to remove the monastery out of the town into a more spacious place; accordingly it was removed to that spot which now bears the name of the place, from the Canon's Close, as it is now called, having been the place of the first parish church, St. Mary the Great, and made by bishop Arfast the cathedral of his see. When that was translated to Norwich, Roger Bigot purchased the church of St. Mary, and placed

placed Cluniack monks here, and erected a timber building for their reception, which he soon after changed to a cloister of stone, the area of which is now visible between the church and the river, and the walls of the refectory, which was on the north side of the court, are in part now standing. In 1370 they had purchased all the houses between their convent and the street; their monastery now became spacious and open, nothing being between the street, the cloister, and the old hospital of Domus Dei, which stood at the corner by the river. This house being alien, on account of the mark annually paid to the abbot of Cluni, was seized with the rest of the alien priories into the hands of the king, and leased by him to the duke of Norfolk. The duke prevailed upon Edward III. to enfranchise it in 1375. It was totally suppressed in 1540, and resigned again into the king's hands, who re-granted it to the duke of Norfolk. The priors were always summoned to convocation. The revenues of this house were very large, as were the ruins; the prior's apartment, which was at the west end of the cloister, was standing till 1737. when the roof was in part pulled off: right against it, at a good distance, close by the road, stands the abbey gate, it is built of free-stone and black flint, and makes an handsome appearance; it was a large church, the tower, according to the conventual form, being between the nave and the choir, and the cloister on the south side. There are no arms remaining, the last was on a supporter of the arched roof of the choir, on the north side of the altar, which, with a fine head of Roger Bigot, carved in stone, is in the possession of the Rev. George Burton, rector of Elveden, in Suffolk. The abbey is in possession of lord Petre.

The Canons of St. Sepulchre.—This order was established in 1109, and were settled here by William the third earl Warren and Surry, in the reign of Stephen, who gave him certain lands for that purpose, at the west end of the town, on the Suffolk side, and their monastery was dedicated to the Holy Sepulchre. for monks Augustine. He gave them a fair twice in a year, on the Invention of the Holy Cross, and the Exaltation of the same. Since the survey, in 1338, the canons had acquired possession of more than eleven hundred acres of land, which at the lowest computation (according as land was valued at that time) must have been worth 20l. a year; according to which computation this monastery, at the suppression, was endowed with 82l. 6s. a year, besides additional advowsons and tithes.

The School and Hospital.—That there was a school in this town very early, appears from the bishop's registry, wherein John de Morton was admitted master by the bishop in 1329; as no admissions occur later, most probably these collations sunk at the dissolution. In 1565 sir Richard Fulmerston, in his will, ordered a preacher to be found for ever, to preach the word of God within the parish church of St. Mary, four times in every year, and to have for his labour, for every sermon, 10s. He gave and bequeathed to his executors, and their heirs, all those pieces of ground and pasture, called the Trinity church-yard, and Black Friar's yard, in Thetford; as also three tenements in the parish of St. Mary, to establish a free grammar-school within Thetford for ever, in a house to be built for that purpose, in the Trinity church-yard, or Black Friar's-yard, as most convenient; and that of the three tenements they make a house and chamber for the school-master and usher, and their successors for ever, and an habitation

tion for four poor people, two whereof to be men, the remaining two women; for the better maintenance of which preacher, school, and poor people. His will was, that manors, land, and tenements, to the amount of 3*l.* a year, besides the said yards and tenements aforesaid, should be settled, and that they should be subject to such rules as he himself should order and direct, or his executors; but after the death of the testator the worldly-minded heirs neglected the execution of this trust, upon which the magistrates of the town, with a proper spirit, and from most laudable motives, expended an hundred pounds to apply the lands to their right use; and the townsmen petitioned James I. to enact, and it was enacted by authority of Parliament, that there should be for ever a preacher, free-grammar school, and an hospital; that the preacher, school-master, usher, and poor people, should be a body politic, in name and deed, and that the preacher should be master both of the school and hospital; that the school-master, usher, and poor people, should be fellows; that the said body politic should be called and known by the name of master and fellows of the school and hospital of Therford, founded by king James, according to the last will of sir Richard Fulmerston, knt. and by that name may sue and implead, and be sued and impleaded, &c. that the master and fellows should have a common seal, with the arms of Richard Fulmerston engraved thereon. and that the mayor, burgesses, and commonalty, shall be for ever governors and overseers of the master and fellows, and shall have the placing and displacing them, as cause shall require. In pursuance of this act, the master, usher, and poor, had houses built for them. The master and usher's house is joined to the north end of the school, and stands upon the ruins of the Trinity church.

The school at first flourished, and acquired great reputation by the many gentlemen's sons educated therein, and continued to do so for a long time. For some years past it has undergone a visible declension, but the qualifications, and disposition of the present master, promise a fair prospect of recovering its former splendor; and it is hoped the neighbouring gentlemen will lend an helping hand towards effecting this desirable end.

The present master is the Rev. Henry Charles Manning, M. B. The usher, Mr. Thomas Pooley.

Of the Corporation.—Mr. Blomefield concludes here hath been a burgh ever since the time of the Romans, and that the inhabitants were governed by a regular succession of kings, provosts, &c. from the conquest, which office expired in the time of Richard I. who changed its government from a provost to a bailiff, coroner, and mayor, the bailiff for a time being the superior officer (during the time, I suppose, he was appointed by the king in person, as lord of the dominion, or manor of Thetford). Both the mayor, and the coroner, then held their places for life, and till 1373, when John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, obliged the town so far as to make the mayor superior to the coroner, but still kept the nomination of the coroner to himself. This office was also for life, till 1490, then king Henry VII. as duke of Lancaster, and lord of this manor, obliged the town in making the old mayor the coroner for next year, which custom continues to this day. In the reign of Edward I. the mayor and commonalty had licence to purchase lands to the value of 10l. to remain to them and their successors for ever, notwithstanding the statute of Mortmain, which they deemed a valuable privilege.

During

During the reign of Henry VII. no material alteration was made in their privileges, except that power was granted to the mayor, that none should serve the office of coroner but one who had been mayor. It was likewise granted to the mayor to have a sword carried before him, whenever he went upon public business. The mayor was sworn into his office by the under-steward of the Duchy of Lancaster in 1470, after which he rode to Broomhill fair, to receive the toll, stallage, and picage of the fair.

In the 24th of Henry VIII. the king granted that the sword, and two maces, should be carried before the mayor, and as there were but eight burgessees, the king by his letters patent augmented them to ten.

In queen Mary's reign the inconveniences from not being a free burgh increased, and they prayed for relief, but without success, till queen Elizabeth granted them their wished-for charter, whereby the mayor, burgessees, (now called aldermen) and 20 commonalty (now called 20 common council men) made one body politic; the limits and jurisdiction of the said borough, for ever, to remain the same as they have been time immemorial. That they may make perambulations for the knowledge of their limits as often as they judge proper; may plead, and be impleaded; prosecute, and be prosecuted; or plead their charter in any court whatever. That they may have a common seal, which they may break, or alter at their pleasure. That ten of the most discreet, and honest men of the burgh, may be assistant to the mayor, in all causes respecting the burgh; in making statutes, and ordinances, for the benefit of it, and the inhabitants thereof, (who shall be called principal burgessees) and they shall be the common council of the borough, and to be kept by them, or the major part of them, and the
mayor

mayor for the time being, that they may be better able to govern and regulate persons within the same. That twenty other men, resident inhabitants, of discreet and honest character, shall constitute the whole number of the commonalty, and be under the ten burgesses; and when any of them happen to die, or from the commonalty, for reasonable causes, to be removed, that then, and from thence, it shall and may be lawful, for the mayor and recorder, or his sufficient deputy, and the coroner for the time being, for the fulfilling of the number of twenty commoners, to elect out of the inhabitants of the borough another discreet and honest man, and admit him according to their discretion, &c.—The sum and substance of the charter may be read at large in Blomefield, p. 168; or Worth's History of Thetford, p. 238.

In the time of Henry VIII. there were three leets belonging to this town, viz. Hundred leet, in right of the Hundred of Shropham; East leet, and St. Thomas's leet, in right of the Duchy of Lancaster; all which were granted to the corporation, empowering them to keep two leets in a year, paying to the crown an annual rent of 13s. 4d. for the Hundred leet, (which rent was reserved to the crown when Shropham hundred was granted from it) though the jurisdiction of the hundred extends over the Norfolk side of the town at this time, as is evident from the leet only, and its annual rent being excepted, and from the hundred courts formerly kept at Maudlin Cross. In 1693 there was a warrant directed by the sheriff of the county to the bailiff of the hundred of Shropham, commanding him to levy 13s. 4d. upon the mayor, burgesses, and commonalty of Thetford, due to the Exchequer for the annual farm of the leet, or view of frankpledge, of all the inhabitants of the burgh. This town is always reckoned as part of
Shropham

Shropham hundred, and has been, ever since the time of Edward III. in all taxations, and used to raise the trained bands, as in the hundred; and before 1664 they paid all duties, king's taxes, &c. as one body to Norfolk, the greater part of the burgh being in that county; but since, the one part is taxed as in Lackford hundred, in Suffolk, and the other as in Shropham hundred, in Norfolk.

It was a burgh by prescription only, till the first royal charter which was granted to this town, by queen Elizabeth, and bears date at Gorambury, March 12, 1573. This was in force till January 30, in the 34th of Charles II. and was then surrendered to the king, who granted them a new one, with some alterations, dated at Westminster, March 6, in the same year; but this did not continue long, for there was another granted, exactly like that of queen Elizabeth, by which they are now governed.

THE PRESENT CORPORATION.

Richard Saffery, esq. Mayor,

The most noble Augustus Henry duke of Grafton,
Recorder,

William Holmes, esq. Coroner,

Mr. James Cole, Town-Clerk, and Deputy-Recorder.

A L D E R M E N.

Mr. George Clarke
Hon. Charles Fitzroy
Mr. Thomas Garnham
Mr. Thomas Arnold

Mr. Henry Thompson
Mr. John Rolfe
Mr. William Holmes.
Three vacant.

COMMON COUNCIL.

Mr. Richard Newberry	Mr. John Harvey
Edmond Nourse	Robert Manby
Thomas Lackford	James Parker
Robert Dade	John Spendlove
Peter Salmon	Edmund Clarke
Matthew Betts	John Tyrrel
Peter Sterne	William Robards
John Sherring	John Theodorick
Noah Baker	William Mingay

Two vacant.

Of the Liberties of this Borough, in the reign of Edward the Third.

There was a return of writs, and gaol delivery, by the king's writ, so early as the time of Edward I. in 1290; also a mayor, and coroner, as at present. The burgesses answered for themselves before the justices every where, without joining any foreigners to them in recognizances, or juries. No sheriff, coroner, bailiff, or other officer, not of the borough, was allowed to exercise his office, or make any executions within the said borough, or its boundaries, but only the bailiffs of the borough; nor to exercise any power over the fisheries of the borough, which extend from the town to St. Edmond's-bridge, towards Santon. The mayor, and his bailiffs, by the consent of the commonalty, or the major part of the same, had power to levy and make reasonable seizures for the security and benefit of the borough, as other boroughs did in like cases. The burgesses were exempted from any kind of toll throughout the whole kingdom of England. No person of, or in the said borough, could be indicted

dicted, or arrested, for any debt, or cause whatsoever, or be confined in any prison, but that belonging to the borough; but all who are indicted, or arrested, and confined in the prison of the said borough, are to be so arrested by the bailiffs of the borough, and by them kept, who have the keeping of the same till they are released, according to the law and custom of the kingdom, and that by the burgeses of the said borough. The burgeses may not plead, nor be impleaded, nor be summoned out of the said borough for any offences or complaints arising within the said borough, unless touching the king, or his heirs. Every one of the said borough could, and can dispose by will of all his lands and tenements within the limits of the said borough, as well as his other chattels, which are moveable. Every one of the borough who can measure, and count twelve pence, shall be esteemed of full age, as hath been hitherto; and all alienations made by such have been, and are now considered as valid. No burgess of the said borough shall be amerced for any cause, unless by his fellow burgeses of the said borough, and then it must be done before the mayor, and according to the quantity of the offence.

The arms of this town are, a castle triple-towered, with demi-armed men *issuing out* at each end, holding, that on the right hand, a trumpet, the other, on the left hand, an escutcheon in his right, and a sword in his left hand.

Amongst the many benefactions to this town, sir Joseph Wanson, and sir Richard Fulmerston, were the greatest. The former built the court of common pleas, and grand jury chamber, adjoining to the old Guild-hall. The Guild-hall is a fine old building of black flint, and had under it a noble kitchen,

which is now turned into an handsome court for the trial of Crown causes; and as the seats are so constructed as to be removed at pleasure, it is occasionally made use of for concerts and assemblies. The common gaol and bridewell stands by the Market-place, on the Norfolk side; and some years since the corporation bought a house, &c. in Magdalen-street, which is now made into a workhouse. They own also the cross in the Market-place, and one part, as I am informed, of the butchery, and lord Petre the other. The alms-houses erected by sir Richard Fulmerston, near St. Mary's church, are built of black flint, and free-stone. Harbord's *hospital*, at the north-west end of the town, was founded for six old men, who divide the surplus of 30l. per annum among them, after the expence of repairs is deducted. The term of this foundation being expired, was lately renewed, by the generous application of the duke of Grafton. The estate is held by Mr. Gold.

Thetford was honored with the residence of several kings; many charters granted to the priory here, and to Ramsey-abbey, &c. by Henry I. bear date here. When the manor came with the Duchy to the crown, the ancient seat of the earls Warren became the royal palace. It was the only one in Norfolk, and the keeper's salary was 40l. per annum. It was rebuilt about the reign of queen Elizabeth, and was given by king James I. to sir Philip Wodehouse, whose arms were lately remaining over the west side of the outer gate, but are now removed elsewhere. Over them was in capitals, *Trappee forte*, in allusion to their prowess at the battle of Agincourt. It was the seat of that family in the time of sir John Wodehouse, bart. late recorder of the borough, and was purchased of sir Armine Wodehouse by the late Thomas Wright, esq. attorney at law. On his death it became the property

perty of Mrs. Ann Wright, his sister, who sold it to Mr. Cole, attorney at law, the present deputy-recorder, and town-clerk. The present members for this borough are, the honorable general Fitzroy, and Fitzroy Scudamore, esq.

There was a mint in this town, from the reign of Edgar to that of Henry II. inclusive, but the accounts of it are too imperfect to reduce to any regularity. Many coins are extant, struck at this mint, a plate of which may be seen in Mr. Worth's History of Thetford, p. 278.

Natural History.—Many echinites, or button fish, as they are called, are found at Thetford, and in the neighbourhood, as likewise cockle-shells, some of an extraordinary size. They are found at various depths, and are an incontestible proof of the universality of the deluge. A few years ago, in digging a marle-pit at Elveden, was found a perfect nautilus, with the lid, (the only one, it is thought, in the kingdom); it was presented by the Rev. George Burton to the British Museum, where it is now deposited. Nature, in its construction, has shewn a wonderful instance of sagacity, since it is of a circular shape, whose apex forms a compleat hinge, by dropping into a cavity in the lid, and by that means prevents its being washed away by the force of the sea, when the fish opens its shell. This was found at least twenty feet under the surface of the earth; variety of marine curiosities have been discovered in the blocks of chalk dug out of these pits. A workman of veracity assured the editor of these sheets, that his man once cut out a lobster out of one of them, but was so surprized at the sight, that nothing but one claw was left intire. Many large pieces of chalk have been found in their several progressive states towards that of hard flint;

in some parts the several degrees of transformation might be easily discerned, even from a small speck up to a large quantity of solid flint. Many different kinds of shells, particularly sea shells, are found here, and it is to be wished naturalists would be more observant than they commonly are, in these light soils, where those natural productions are much better preserved, than in an heavy soil. Such discoveries would furnish the friends to religion with clearer proofs of the wonderful works of nature than the abstruse reasonings of some philosophers, and tend more to remove those dark mists of scepticism, which hurry too many into a disbelief of the clearest, as well as most sacred truths.

Upon the whole, we see, on this partial view of the ancient Site-magus, of what consequence this town has been—what awful mementos it presents us with, that a deep sense of religion makes cities to flourish, and even exalteth a nation. In this little metropolis of the heptarchy we read of nineteen churches, and about a dozen religious houses; yet since, through a depravity of manners, dwindled into three small churches, and a few charitable foundations. If this is the inevitable consequence of a decay of religion, let the reader make the application, and by the help of individuals this happy island may again flourish, and recover its former splendor, and religion and charity may again walk hand in hand together, as foster-sisters, and, instead of oppressing the poor, every village may again prove a comfortable asylum to the sons of affliction and poverty.

We are indebted to an ingenious and very learned gentleman in this neighbourhood for the history of Thetford, which, we think, for precision and method, is better calculated to please and instruct, than even
the

the works of a Blomefield, or a Gough, whose *publications on this subject* are too prolix to engage the attention of any but those who estimate authors *by their name*, and books *by their size*. We cannot, however, agree with this gentleman in one point: he laments the total abolition of these religious and charitable institutions, which prevailed so much in this kingdom till the reign of Henry VIII. We are of opinion that the clergy and the poor are much better provided for than they were before the dissolution; for, besides the many noble and well endowed edifices, as hospitals, infirmaries, poor-houses, charity-schools, lunatic, and lying-in houses, erected in every part of England, we find that no less a sum than 1,720,316l. 14s. 7d. is annually raised by the overseers for the use of the poor in England and Wales: thus, instead of the families and heirs of estates being robbed of their property, by the gift, or will of persons, whose zeal favoured more of superstition than of charity, the poor of this country are maintained by voluntary and equitable assessment. The act of mortmain, which passed May 10, 1736, secures property from the depredations of such persons, and, though mortuaries might be necessary in times less civilized, the benificed clergy have now little to wish for in that way.

Thetford is on the great post road between Norwich and London, twenty-nine miles from the former, and seventy-nine from the latter. From the post-office here mails and bye-bags are dispatched to all parts of Norfolk and Suffolk; and a stage coach, or a diligence, passes through for London and Norwich every day, except Sunday.

The river Ouse *Parva* is navigable here, and downwards to Lynn-Regis, &c. by which vessels of

small burthen can export or import the produce or manufactures of several counties. The river is also the boundary between Norfolk and Suffolk.

Thetford has a weekly market on Saturday, and annual fairs held May 14, Aug. 2. and Sept. 25. The Lent assizes for Norfolk are always held at the Guild-hall, and horse-races are kept every year, in July. The principal inns are the Bell and the George. It is twelve miles from Bury St. Edmund's, nineteen from Newmarket, six from Brandon, sixteen from Watton, and fifteen from Attleburgh.

WRETHAM, EAST, or GREAT WROTHAM, is so called because it lies most east of the three Wrothams, of all which Harold was lord in king Edward's time, and Ralph de Tony in the Conqueror's. Wretham, or Wrotham-Thorpe, had then two carucates; Wretham, or West Wrotham, had three; and Wretham, or East Wrotham, had four; all of them were beruites to Necton, and contained together four miles in length, four in breadth, and paid 20d. gelt.

This manor was given to Bec abbey, in Normandy, by that Ralph de Tony who held it at the survey, from which time it enjoyed all the privileges belonging to that monastery. In the register of the abbey the customs of the manor are entered, among which it appears, that the tenants were to pay scot and lot, by way of aid to the abbots when they came into England, or to their proctors, if the necessities of the abbey were very urgent; they could not sell a horse colt, nor an ox of their own bringing up, without their lord's leave, nor marry their daughters, nor go to live out of the manor, nor remove their chattels out of it without licence; they paid at every death the best beast for a heriot, or 32d. instead of it; and

and if any one died intestate, all their chattels were at the lord's disposal. When the harvest work was finished by the tenants, they were to have half an acre of barley, and a ram let loose in the midst of them, and if they caught him, he was their own to make merry with; but if he escaped from them, he was the lord's; which custom is still kept at Eton college, there being a ram every year let loose among the scholars, on a certain day, to be run down by them, the original of which might come from the custom of this manor. At this time William de Hockham held land, &c. at Rockland, and all that belonged to the church of Bec, and was part of this manor, as did other persons of this abbey. In 1285 the abbot held it in free alms, as parcel of Tony's barony, and had view of frank-pledge, assize of bread and ale, a pillory, gallows, and waif, and thus it continued in the abbey, (unless when it was in the king's hands by reason of the French wars) till 1414, in the 2d of Henry V. when the Parliament at Leicester dissolved the prior's aliens, and then it continued in the crown till Henry VI. settled it on his college of Eton, at the foundation, and confirmed it by his charter in 1444. In 1460 it was re-confirmed by Edward IV. it being parcel of the possessions of Okeburne priory, which was an alien, depending on Bec abbey, and at this time the provost, fellows, and scholars of Eton are lords.

The leet belongs to the manor, and liberty of keeping petit-sessions along with it, by grant of Hugh earl of Suffex, who released it to the church of Bec, on condition that they should treat his bailiffs and suiters to the hundred court every other year, in their manor of East Wretham, and afterwards, in 1237, the said Hugh, for twelve marks, paid him by brother William de Gynevill, their general proctor in England,

England, releas'd to them the said treat, on condition they paid to the bailiff of the hundred, yearly, 14d. every Michaelmas-day, and the ancient leet-fee of 3s. so that the lord of the hundred, though he is paramount here, yet hath no leet.

This manor hath liberty of a coroner, whose jurisdiction extends over the Wrethams, by grant of Henry VI. when he founded his colleges of King's and Eton.

The rectory is valued at 11l. 12s. 3d. ob. in the king's books, and pays 1l. 3s. 2d. 3q. yearly tenths.

The church is dedicated to St. Ethelbert, and the rector paid a pension of 20s. a year out of it to the abbot of Bec, and 12d. for synodals. The abbot of Councis' temporalities belonging to his manor of West Wretham, in this town, were taxed at 9l. In the year 1603 there were eighty communicants, which number is much decreased; it paid 2l. 15s. to the tenths, and is now assessed at 340l. to the land-tax, there being about 150 inhabitants.

In 1394, August 27, the rector was presented by the king, as belonging, to the temporalities of Okebourne priory, which are now in his hands.

The provost of Eton college, who is now patron, has presented to this church since Sept. 19, 1447; and in 1753 the Rev. Dunham Gaines had the rectory on the said presentation.

Upon the west end of the steeple was an old inscription, beginning, *Orate pro, &c.* but so battered that it is illegible. A very large stone coffin was ploughed up in a close in this town about 1715. There

There are divers saints painted on the Screens, as St. Augustine, St. Ambrose, &c.

In 1615 John Dowffylde, gent. gave 10*l.* by will, to the minister and church-wardens, to be employed for ever as town stock, to set the poor at work.

At East Wretham is the seat of William Colhoun, esq.

WRETHAM, WEST, or NORTH WROTHAM, belonged to Ralph de Tony at the conquest, who was son of Roger de Tony, standard-bearer of Normandy, and founder of the abbey of Couthis in that dukedom. This Ralph was standard-bearer to the Conqueror in that memorable battle against king Harold, and by his eminent service, it became a sharer in those large possessions which were after that signal conquest disposed of to his friends and followers, and, among others, had nineteen lordships in Norfolk, these three being part of them, the biggest of which he gave to Bec abbey, and left the other two to Ralph, his son and heir, who left them at his death to Roger, his son and heir, who gave this manor and advowson, with the mill, and moors, and whatever he held in the township, to the monks of Couthis; they held them of his gift at his death, as belonging to their cell at Wotton-Waven, in Warwickshire, which was in 1162.

In 1285 the abbot of Couthis had liberty of free-warren, free-fishing, view of frank-pledge, and assize of bread and ale allowed him; thus it continued in the abbot (except when the king held it on account of the French wars, when the temporalities of the alien priories were generally seized, that the revenues might not go to support the king's enemies)

till

till 1414, in the 2d of Henry V. and then the Parliament at Leiceſter diſſolved all the alien priories, and ſo it came to the crown, and was granted for life to ſir Rowland Lenthall, knt. and at his death it went with the priory of Wotton-Waven, and all its revenues, to Henry VI. who gave them to the provost and ſcholars of his college of St. Mary and St. Nicholas, in Cambridge, commonly called King's college, who are now lords and patrons. Henry II. granted the monks of Wotton licence to chooſe their own abbot, and that all their tenants in England ſhould be free from ſerving at ſheriff's turns, and hundred courts, and acquitted them of all tax, Dane-gelt, hildiekt, and hundredſu, and alſo granted them all felons goods forfeited; by virtue of which this manor pleaded an exemption from doing ſuit to the hundred, but ſtill paid their leet-fee of 3s. a year to it, for themſelves and Wretham-Thorpe, of both which the lord of the hundred is paramount, but hath no power to compel the tenants to any ſervice.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 12l. 11s. 3d. and pays 1l. 5s. 1d. ob. yearly tenths.

The church is dedicated to St. Laurence, was taxed in the Lincoln taxation at fourteen marks, and paid 12d. ſynodals. In 1603 there were forty communicants, and there are now (Blomefield) about one hundred inhabitants; it paid 3l. 4s. to the tenths, and is aſſeſſed at 376l. to the land tax.

The provost of St. Mary's and St. Nicholas's college, at Cambridge, commonly called King's College, who is now patron, has preſented ſince Feb. 10, 1451.

An EMBOSSEMENT *of a Danish* SHIELD.





In 1754 the Rev. Dunham Gaines was presented to this rectory.

In the chancel are inscriptions to Samuel Wotton, doctor of divinity, and minister of both the Wrethams, who died Feb. 5, 1680, aged 80 years and 5 months.—Elizabeth, wife of Dr. Wotton, died August 1, aged 53.—Thomas Townshend, gent. and Katherine Hoo, his wife; he died July 31, 1681.—Frances, wife of George Townshend, gent. and daughter of Edmund Bacon, of Hefset, esq. died September, 1649.—William Powell, gent. descended from the Powells of Shropshire, died Feb. 6, 1685.—John Powell, his son, rector of the Wrethams, died March 6, 1710.

A brass plate fixed against the east end of the north wall, with an inscription to Catherine Coddington, wife of Nathaniel Coddington, rector of the two parishes, who died Oct. 11, 1716, aged 33.

Upon the south chancel window may be seen a small emblematical figure of a hare, riding on a greyhound, with a bow and quiver hanging at its back, and bugle horn by its side.

William Grigson, esq. resides at his seat here.

This venerable piece of antiquity, which the annexed copper-plate represents, is undoubtedly of Danish extraction; the whole is of cast brass. From its appearance it seems to have been buried ever since the two Danish princes, Ingwar and Ubba, marched from Hunstanton, through Attleburgh, to Thetford, A. D. 870. Most probably it was part of the embossment on a target of some commander in chief, for there are still visible at the end and back part of
the

the sword an hook, and in several places rivets, which have been broken off. The dress seems to correspond with the usual description of the ancient Danish soldiers, who upon their heads wore burgenets, (or caps of net-work, as their princes did coronets); they had habergeons, or coats of mail over their bodies, and swords with gilt hilts belted round their waists, and a target with gilt bosses on their left arm, part of which this appears to have been, though the lower part has been broken off by the rough treatment of the workman who dug it up in Wrethamfield, Norfolk, A. D. 1767.

The device seems to have been intended to perpetuate that stand king Edmond made against the Danes, till betrayed into the hands of his enemies by the treachery of one of his dependents; as such, may it not have been the embossment on king Edmond's own target, or one of his generals? If this be admitted, it may be supposed to represent a captive Dane yielding up his sword to the Conqueror, or a Danish chief kneeling in the act of dedication of his sword to some heathen deity, and invoking his future aid in the use of it; and we are rather confirmed in this opinion, as we discern no traces of anxiety, or distress; but, on the contrary, evident marks of serenity, and even a gleam of hope in the countenance. Whatever the device may be, it is most certainly a valuable piece of antiquity, and as such it is here offered to the consideration of the public.

One remarkable instance of the antiquity of this piece, and the barbarism of the times in which it was executed, must strike the inspector at first sight, that the votary is grasping the blade of the drawn sabre without the least appearance of danger, or expression of pain in his countenance.

WRETHAM-THORPE, or Little Wrotham, now called Thorpe-House, there being only one farm remaining at this time; it never had any church, but was an hamlet to West Wretham, which took the name of Little Wretham after this was joined to it: it was a separate village at the conquest, and so continued till the latter end of Edward II. though the manor always was, and now is, distinct from the other Wrethams, by the name of Thorpe-Hall. It was held by the Tonys, who had all the three at first, and passed as West Wretham did till that was given to the abbot of Councis by Roger de Tony, the manor having then liberty of view of frank-pledge, assize of bread and ale, and waif. Robert de Tony died seised about 1310, leaving it to Alice, widow of Thomas Leybourne, his sister and heiress, who married Guy de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, who soon after his marriage sold the manor, with land, &c. in Stanford, held by the 10th part of a fee, to Thomas de Nethergate, chaplain of Stanford, to be held of the earl by the annual payment of a chaplet of roses; and this Thomas gave the manor to the prior of Coxford, and his successors, in 1315, reserving the Stanford parts to himself. In 1343 it was settled by Peter de Weston Taillur on sir John de Norwich, knt. at which time it contained two carucates, for which John gave him one hundred marks. How it came from Coxford, whether by exchange, or no, we do not find. In 1374 it descended to Katherine de Brewse, cousin and heiress of sir John Norwich, junior, who settled it on John Davenport, &c. for her life, and a year after her decease; the remainder to the king and his heirs. In 1384 Richard II. gave the reversion to the prioress and nuns of Dartford, in Kent, in which house it continued to the dissolution; and in 1539 was granted to sir Thomas Jermyn, knt. and his heirs, to be held in capite. It afterwards be-
longed

longed to George Townshend, of Cranworth, who left it to his eldest son, Thomas, who lived at West Wretham, where he was buried in 1681, leaving George Townshend, of Wretham, gent. who married a grand-daughter of sir Robert Baldock's, of Tacolneston, by whom he had the Rev. Mr. Townshend, rector of Shipdham; which of them it was that sold the estate, I (Blomefield) cannot say, but am informed that it belongs to the heirs of sir Nicholas Gerrard, bart. who died in 1727.

We meet with nothing more concerning these Wrethams, but that the great hundred court is to be annually kept at a place called Kettle-bridge, between Little Hockham, Illington, and Great Wretham, on the Tuesday after Michaelmas-day in the morning, where all the rents due to the hundred are to be paid, and proper warrants issued for all arrears.

In Fabian's Chronicle, (fol. 361) is this: *Aboute that season (1418) the parson of Wortham, in Norfolk, whych longe tyme had haunted New-market Heeth, and there robbed and spoyled many of the king's subiecls, was nowe, with his concubyn, brought into Newgate, where lastly he died.*—And in a manuscript, in the hands of the Rev. Mr. Baldwin, it is thus related: “ In 1418
 “ the parson of Wrotham, in Norfolk, which had
 “ haunted Newmarket Heathe, and there robbed and
 “ spoiled many, was, with his concubine, carried to
 “ Newgate, of London, where he died.”

It appears by the institutions, that it could not be the parson of West Wretham, and (if any) must be the parson of East Wretham; and it looks something like it, there being no time of Swanlond's institution mentioned, who was instituted at the death of this parson; but whether it was de Lawe, or any other
 that

that had it after him, and before Swanlond, we cannot pretend to determine.

WILBY, called in Doomsday-book WILGEBY, joins to Banham on the north, and had at the Conqueror's survey two manors; the head manor, which hath been since called by divers names, according to those of its different owners, and now WILBY-HALL MANOR, belonged to Fader in the Confessor's time, and to William de Schoies, or Escoies, (*i. e.* the Scot, or Will of Scotland, as he is sometimes called,) in the Conqueror's; it had a church then, and ten acres of glebe, the whole town being a mile long, and as much broad, and paid 15d. out of every 20s. taxed upon the hundred. The advowson belonged to this manor, and in the reign of William Rufus William de Escoies, or Schoies, by the name of William de Hefloies, gave the advowson of Wilby along with that of Banham, and a carucate of land there, together with two parts of the tithes of his demesnes in both places, to the abbey of St. Mary at York.

In 1226 Stephen de Ebroic was lord; he is sometimes called Ebrois, D'Ebrois, Deveres, and D'Evereux. In 1256 William Deveres was lord; he and Maud, his mother, sold it to sir Richard de Boyland in 1278, who had a charter of free-warren for all his lands here. This William Deveres pretended a right to the moiety of the advowson against the abbot of York, but was cast in the suit, and forced to release all his pretensions. In 1295 Richard de Boyland had it, and John, his son and heir, in 1314. In 1345 sir John Boyland, knt. of Boyland-Hall, in Brisingham, held it at three quarters of a fee, half of John Walleys, the other half of John Berdewell, who held it of the heirs of Hugh de Bokenham, they of the earl of Arundel, and he of the king. This part seems

to be the free-man and his services, which was Roger Bigod's at the Conquest, afterwards the earl of Arundel's, then Hugh Bokenham's, lord of West Harling, after that the Berdewell's, by whom it was sold to the Boylands.

In 1363 sir Thomas de Felton, knt. had it settled on him by sir William Ingaldesthorpe, knt. and Eleanor, his wife, it being conveyed to him during the life of Eleanor; great part of this manor was sold by sir John de Boyland. In 1372 sir Thomas Felton, knight of the garter, was lord.

In 1470 sir John Curson, of Beck-hall, in Belaugh, knt. had this manor, it being then held of the earl of Arundel, as of Castle Acre manor. In 1565 William Curson, esq. sold the manor to sir Thomas Lovell, knt. In this family it continued till 1627. and then Charles Lovell, of Harling, esq. sold it to Edward Hobart, of Langley, esq. in trust. In 1631 Edward Hobart sold to Charles Love 1 of Hockering, esq. and Edward Barkeley, of the same, gent. the manors of Wilby; and in 1665 Charles Lovell, of East Harling, esq. sold it to Robert Wilton, of Wilby, esq. and his heirs, and so it became joined to BECK-HALL MANOR, which was owned by Ailid in the Confessor's time, and by Ralph Bainard in the Conqueror's, under whom it was held by Solidarius; it was an exact half of the town, the other manor being of the same extent and value. In 1106 Jeffrey Bainard, his son and heir, had it, who was a great benefactor to St. Mary's abbey at York; he was succeeded by William Bainard, who taking part with Elias earl of Main, Philip de Braose, William Malet, and other conspirators, against Henry I. lost his barony, the chief seat of which was called Bainard's Castle, situate below St. Paul's, near the Thames. Upon this forfeiture

feiture it was given by the king to Robert, a younger son to Richard Fitz-Gilbert, progenitor to the ancient earls of Clare, as this Robert was to the noble family of the Fitz-Walters, of whom it was always held of Bainard-Castle at half a fee; and in 1228 Robert de Cockfield held it of Walter Fitz-Robert.

About 1272 Robert de Beckhall first had that half fee which was formerly Robert Cockfield's, and another quarter of a fee joined to it, held of the lady Maud de Boyland, from whose manor he had purchased it.

In 1429, Nov. 4, sir Richard Carbonel, knt. by will, ordered his manors of Wilby, &c. to be sold to pay his debts. In 1459 Alice, widow of sir Andrew Hogard, knt. of Buckenham-Castle, after of sir Hugh Cokesey, knt. died seised of a part of it, which always went with that castle, till sir Edmund Knevet sold it.

In 1495 Thomas Mounteney, and Thomas Curson, esqrs. were lords, it being held of the said Curson, as of his manor of Wilby-Hall, by 4s. rent.

In 1526 John Mounteney, of Foxele, gent. conveyed to John Green, of Wilby, gent. all his manors, lands, &c. in Wilby.

In 1532 Richard Bainard, gent. Edmund Knevet, knt. and John White, esq. sold Beck-Hall manor to John Green, &c. his trustees, and so all the parts were joined again by Green's purchase. In 1554 it contained 12 messuages, 220 acres of land, 220 acres of pasture, 4s. 8d. rent, &c. all which were held by Mr. Thomas Green of sir Christopher Heydon, knt. in right of Temperance, his wife, relict of Tho-

mas Grey, as of his manor of Bainard's-Hall, in Bunwell; he died seised also of Hargham, &c. In 1571 Matthew Bacon, gent. was lord, in right of Cecily, his wife, relict of Thomas Green, as guardian to Francis Green, her son, who died without issue in 1580. leaving it divisible among his five sisters, of whose husbands John Wilton, of Topcroft, gent. bought their several parts, and compleated his title in 1622; he purchased the advowson, and joined it to the manor. Robert Wilton, of Wilby, esq. purchased Wilby-Hall manor, and the hundred of Shropham, and by so doing joined the leet to the manor, and made the estate compleat. Nicholas Wilton, of Wilby, esq. his son, sold the manors, hundred, and advowson, to Ralph Hare, of Hargham, esq. whose descendant, Hugh Hare, esq. son of Thomas Hare, of Hargham, esq. deceased, is lord and patron.

The advowson of the rectory after the dissolution came to the crown, and in 1558 was held by Edward lord North, and John Williams, in free soccage, by fealty only, as of East Greenwich manor, in Kent, and went afterwards till it was sold to John Wilton.

In 1504 William Hammond, senior, of Wilby, infeofed a close, called Nells, in Wilby, to the use of the repairs of the church for ever; it abutts west on the street, and was given in 1480 by John Nell, of Wilby.

In 1637 Richard Wilton, of Topcroft, gave a rood of ground, and built an alms-house thereon, over the door of which his arms still remain. The manor of Old Buckenham extended hither so early as in 1366.

Eccles manor extended hither in the time of Henry VIII. it being part of the bishop's manor of Eccles, which was part of his barony before the exchange.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 7*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* ob. Synodals 1*s.* and Norwich taxation ten marks, and being sworn of the value of 48*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* it is discharged both of first-fruits and tenths. It hath a good rectory-house, and several acres of glebe. It paid 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* every tenth, and is now assessed at 45*l.* to the land tax. In 1603 there were eighty-eight communicants, and now* there are about 160 inhabitants.

Mortuaries are paid in this parish to the rector, according to the act. The temporalities of Buckenham priory, in this town, were taxed at 7*s.* 10*d.* In 1507 the town of Besthorpe had lands here, lying by the Guildhall.

In 1603 a fire broke out in the parsonage-yard, occasioned by carrying a lighted stick through it, which burned down the barn, stable, gate-house, the roof and seats of the church and chancel, and all the timber-work of the steeple, to 790*l.* value.

William de Eschoies (or le Scot) gave this and Banham advowsons, and a part of the tithes of his demesnes, to St. Mary's abbey, near the walls at York, which was confirmed by the bishop of Norwich, and archbishop of Canterbury; part of this portion of tithes, with that at Banham, was settled by the abbey on their cell at Rumburgh, in Suffolk, and in 1528 was granted with it to Cardinal Wolsey, towards building his colleges in Ipswich and Oxford, by patent, dated Dec. 30, in the 20th of Henry VIII.

In

* Blomefield.

In 1463 John Basham, chaplain, farmed the rectory at thirteen marks a year, served the cure, and had three gowns a year, fitting the rector's degree.

The church is dedicated to the honor of All Saints; the chancel and south porch are tiled, and there is a low square tower with five bells.

On stones in the chancel, Kedington impales Buxton.—*Henry Kedington, esq. died March 21, anno Dom. 1713, aged 40 years.*

Also,—*Margaret, reliet of Henry Kedington, of Hockham, esq. eldest daughter of Robert Buxton, of Channons-Hall, in Tybenham, esq. died October 21, 1711, aged 56 years.*

Here lieth the body of that faithful patriot, and true lover of his country, Robert Wilton, of Wilby, in the county of Norfolk, esq. he died Nov. 19, 1657, aged 58.—Wilton's arms, with Drury, Meade, and Jay—Also three inscriptions to the wives of Robert Wilton, esq. of Wilby.

Bell impaling Knevet, which was put up for Muriell, widow of sir Robert Bell, of Beaupre-Hall, in Clackclose hundred. knt. daughter of sir Thomas Knevet, the elder, of Ashwelthorpe, who was buried here.

Elizabeth Pierfon, the second wife of Thomas Pierfon, esq. of Middleton, in Freebridge Lynn, died at this place the 27th of Oct. 1727.

In 1769 the Rev. William Lobb was presented to the rectory of Wilby, consolidated with Hargham, by Hugh Hare, esq. of Hargham.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY
Los Angeles

This book is DUE on the last date stamped below.

DISCHARGE-URL
OCT 13 1978
OCT 13 1978

R.A



3 1158 00386 8907

UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY



A 000 007 512 7

